

PF604583/V3

REES, MORGAN GORONWY. REES,  
MARGARET EWING

PF604583/V3

## SEE ALSO LIST INSIDE COVER

Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date	Serial No	Star Designation	Date
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KV 2 / 4605

S. 960 Edn2

PF604583/V3



FILE CLOSED

PF 604,583.

VOL 3

R E E S, GORONWY

R E E S, MARGARET

ee Also

FILE CLOSED

Officer or Serial No.	Date	Officer or Serial No.	Date
	31 OCT 1969		24 JUL 1975
	25 NOV 1969		29 JUL 1975
	22 SEP 1970		31 JUL 1975
	25 SEP 1970		1 AUG 1975
	16 JUN 1971		5 JAN 1976
	10/9/71		1 NOV 1979
	31 OCT 1971		8 JAN 1980
	3 MAR 1972		FEB 1980
	11 1972		6 80
	3 MAY 1972		1 APR 1981
	5 MAY 1972		5 MAY 1981
	17 JUL 1972		1 NOV 1993
	26 JUL 1972		2 DEC 1993
	12 SEP 1972		3 DEC 1993
	6 DEC 1972		7-9-99
	9 JAN 1973		12/07/08
	2 FEB 1973		3/5/00
	29 MAR 1973		2/2/2012
	3 AUG 1973		3/7/12
	5 AUG 1973		
	10 JAN 1974		
	14 JAN 1974		

**LIMITED CIRCULATION**

Please refer to S. Form 239 before sending this file to another Section.

S Form 238d/3m 10.67

S Form 238 2m 8.68

**Y FILE**

THIS FILE WHEN IN TRANSIT MUST BE IN A CLOSED ENVELOPE, ADDRESSED PERSONALLY TO THE OFFICER.

**HELD by R.5**

The file should be passed for P.A. to R.5.

Transit slips in respect of this file should always be forwarded to R.5.

PF 604,583.

VOL 3



Reference PF. 604,583

165.

13.3.56.

Note by D.

165x

13.3.56.

Note by D. on discussion with Cimperman.

165y

14.3.56.

To REES enclosing his copy of manuscript.

165az

14.3.56.

To Director of Public Prosecutions re REES

165a

15.3.56.

Note on discussion with REES about the events of the week-end of the

disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN.

166.

15.3.56.

Note by Mr. Skardon on interview with REES

166a

15.3.56.

Ext. from note by D. re Captain LIDDELL's meeting

166b

15.3.56.

Note by L.A. on conversation with Admiral Thomson.

166c

167.

D. through D.1.

Mr. Skardon's report upon our visit to REES at Aberystwyth is at 166a. On page 3 he records that I had a conversation with REES concerning the events of the week-end of the disappearance in May, 1951. My note dealing with this conversation is at 165a.

If REES is to be believed, new and significant facts were discovered. As I see no reason to disbelieve the story that REES has now told these new facts are:-

(a) Anthony BLUNT saw BURGESS at his flat on Friday, 25 May, the morning of his disappearance.

(b) On the Monday afternoon at REES's home at Sonning BLUNT tried to dissuade REES from telling his story to the Security Service. He again tried to dissuade REES on the Tuesday morning prior to REES's appearance at this Office.

(c) There was a delay of 24 hours between the time that REES reported BURGESS's disappearance before we knew about it in the Security Service.

You have already informed me that the D.G. has agreed that Mr. Skardon and I shall see REES again soon and we are making arrangements to do so next week.

Since we saw REES the telephone check has revealed that REES is having considerable difficulty with "The People" over the publication of these articles and that he very much dislikes the form in which they are submitted to him.

D.1.A.  
16.3.56.

trv R.T. Reed

51-6987  
V.P.Co.  
(REGIMENT)  
Code 18-75

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168.

16.3.56. Note by L.A. re article by REES to appear in "The People" on 18.3.56. 168a

169.

16.3.56. To Rear Admiral Thomson returning article by REES. 169a

170.

16.3.56. From Director of Public Prosecutions. 170a

171.

16.3.56. To P.H. Dean, Foreign Office, enclosing REES' book. 171a

172.

17.3.56. From Admiral Thomson encl. copy of letter from "The People". 172a

173

18.3.56. Cutting from "The People" 173a

19.3.56. Extract from letter from BURGESS ment. REES 173b

20.3.56. To Admiral Thomson in reply to 172a 173a

22.3.56. Note by L.A. on visit by Admiral Thomson. 173b

174.

*Handwritten: 22.3.56*  
D.D.G. through D. and D.A.

A telephone check is already in operation upon REES at his home address in Aberystwyth and when I made application for this at minute 154 I said that in view of the difficulties at Aberystwyth I did not propose to make an application for a letter check at that stage.

When I interviewed REES yesterday he said that he had received a number of abusive letters from friends of BURGESS and BLUNT concerning the series of articles now appearing in "The People", and I should like to know the identity of the writers of these letters and intercept letters which he may receive from "The People" and from other newspapers bearing upon his writings. I think, for example, that we may get correspondence from news-

/papers



Reference PF.604583

Minute 174 continued

papers and literary agents about the articles in "The People" as well as correspondence from the "Daily Express" who have sent a reporter to Aberystwyth (Donald Seaman) to interview REES there recently.

I have spoken to Harlow of the G.P.O. about the problems involved in running a H.O.W. on this man. He says that there would be no difficulty or danger in intercepting mail to REES posted in London and the Home Counties, and that this interception would take place in London. In addition it would be possible to intercept correspondence emanating from the Oxford area by making special arrangements there.

As I consider that the arrangements that Harlow can make are safe ones from the security point of view I am therefore making application for a Home Office Warrant on Goronwy REES at his home address Plas Penglais, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire and C/o The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

I have asked for the H.O.W. to include letters emanating from REES at the same time so that we may take the opportunity to intercept ones that may be of interest to us if we obtain prior knowledge of their despatch to any particular address.

A letter check has previously been in operation upon REES as you will see from minute 65.

D.1.A.  
22.3.56.

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed

175.

.3.56. H.O.W. on REES.

175a.

176.

23.3.56. To Harlow, G.P.O. re H.O.W. on REES.

176a

177.

26.3.56. Note on discussion with REES by Mr. Reed.

177a

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178.

177a is my report upon the interview with REES on 21 March. It has been seen by Mr. Skardon who agrees with it. While the interview was profitable it was not as helpful as I hoped it would be due to the inability of REES to remember in detail the events of that memorable week following the disappearance five years ago. Such a lapse of memory is not surprising and I feel that, so far as the facts are concerned, REES has now told us substantially the truth. Nevertheless it is clear from the telephone check that REES is by no means prepared to give us his full co-operation or take us into his confidence over his dealings with newspapers. We know from the check that before he came to London he had seen at Aberystwyth Donald Seaman of the Daily Express, and he is negotiating with that newspaper to carry out some work for it - almost certainly in connection with his knowledge of BURGESS - the nature of which we cannot at the moment divine.

When I first heard that REES was writing in "The People" I believed that he was doing it as a matter of principle. When Mr. Skardon and I saw him on 12 March he did indeed give that as his main reason. He has convinced himself or tried to convince himself that it is so. I fear it is not and that the motive is mainly money and a hatred of BLUNT. Neither Mr. Skardon nor I felt like tackling REES about his principles. It would not have been easy to do so and retain his co-operation. At our first interview Margy REES said of the book "He (REES) wrote it straight off some time ago because he had to get it out of his system". Both she and REES gave the impression that publication had been far from their minds. From the way in which it is written (with letters X and Y etc.) this is manifestly untrue and, taken in conjunction with REES's own statement that he began it in November 1955 and continued in February 1956, the slant is obviously towards eventual publication. My own view is that after the debate of September 1955, REES was angry that the extent of BURGESS's involvement with members of M.I.5. had not been made public and that, still smarting under his treatment at our hands, cross that BLUNT's name had not come out in the House, and that PHILBY's had done so, he started on his book. When B. and M. gave their Press Conference in February 1956 he realised that the time was ripe for publication and that it was then or never.

In the interests of clarity I have appended to the REES note a chart of the sequence of events following the disappearance. It may be useful on a later occasion.

I shall look into the cases of ZAEHNER and PLAYFAIR. For REES to choose CAIRNCROSS as target number 1 was astonishing. It is my view and that of Mr. Skardon that he did so only because of the way that BURGESS overpraised the man and not because REES had any positive evidence that CAIRNCROSS was involved in the espionage activities of BURGESS.

REVAI is an interesting suggestion but I doubt the value of pursuing it further. REVAI and BLUNT are known to be close, indeed intimate friends, and we shall not get any admissions out of REVAI after all these years.

The new light shed on the BLUNT case is the main product of these interviews but the interpretation of it must still be a matter of conjecture. Certainly BLUNT must be seen again when he returns from America at the beginning of May - if he does not return earlier. Probably the best approach may be an appeal to his old loyalty to this Service and to the imperative need to get the maximum help to clear up the allegations that our Service and consequently may still be penetrated by the R.I.S.

D.1.A.  
26.3.56.

Letter from REES to Mr. Skardon.

R. T. Reed.

178b.



Reference PF.604,583.

179.

Copy in PF.604,582. (BLUNT)

D.G.

You will be interested to see Mr. Reed's report at 177a and his minute 178.

We have laid our plans for future action. Their central feature is a proposed interview with BLUNT as soon as possible after his return from the U.S.A., which is expected early in May. I shall be making concrete proposals to you on this matter a little nearer the time.

REES, in our judgment, is co-operating with us freely, except for some reservations not of the first importance. Since the interview recorded at 177a he has sent us a message to the effect that, with his wife's help, he has remembered some further points which may be of interest. I do not yet know what these are. The reference in minute 178 to his "smarting under his treatment at our hands" relates to a state of mind on his part which I think Mr. Reed is right to attribute to him, however unreasonable the state of mind may have been.

*G.R. Mitchell.*

G.R. Mitchell.

D.

28.3.56.

*DI  
DIA/ATR**D. Very well conducted interview a most interesting.**D.G. White 29/3*

180.

29.3.56. Press Cutting from Daily Telegraph.

180a.

181.

29.3.56. To Foreign Office enclosing draft article in "The People".

181a.

29.3.56. Note by L.A. on article for "The People."

181b.

182.

1.4.56. Article by REES in "The People".

182z.

1.4.56. Note for file.

182a.

183.

1.4.56. Extract from T.C. on REES.

183a.

184.

1.4.56. From G.P.O. enclosing cutting from "Western Mail".

184a.

185.

1.4.56. Note for file.

185a.

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186.

At 178b is the letter from Goronwy REES to Mr. Skardon mentioned in the last paragraph of minute 179. It has not yet been acknowledged.

This afternoon I went with Mr. Skardon to the Whitechapel Road and to the Commercial Road nearby in order to try to find the Seamen's shop about which Margy REES has given information. You will see from the diagram which REES has attached to his letter that Mrs. REES is muddled over her geography. Although Petticoat Lane (Middlesex Street) is correctly placed in relation to the wide pavement, the long vista and the Whitechapel Road, the approach described is from the North and the normal way of approaching Whitechapel Road is from the West. We could not find any Seamen's clothes shop either in the Whitechapel Road or in Commercial Road and the proprietor of a local gentlemen's outfitters said that he did not know of any such shop in the vicinity. Generally speaking shops of this type were to be found a good deal further East in Commercial Road towards the docks area.

Norman LUKER is the subject of PF.604,678 and you will see from that file (attached) that we were well aware that he might have been responsible for information that reached BURGESS. Minute 25 set out our views about LUKER and you will see that we made enquiries of S.L.O. Washington to determine LUKER's address and occupation. The last recorded serial in 1953 shows that we decided to take no further action.

I do not really know if it is worth while going further into the matter. If we obtained information that LUKER was returning to the U.K., I think it could do no harm and might do some good to interview him. If you think so too we might again write to S.L.O. Washington to ask him to try to make some arrangements so that we should be informed if LUKER came to the U.K.

The "secretary in M.I.5." mentioned by REES is who was employed at the time of the disappearance in 1951 in Mrs. Grist's section. We were well aware of the danger to our investigations from her employment with this office and we took many steps to see that she did not have access to anything which was connected with the cases that came under investigation. She certainly never had access to BURGESS' file. After the disappearance she was interviewed on a number of occasions by Colonel Cumming and she gave us much useful information about the activities of FOOTMAN and REES.

Mr. Skardon is not very anxious to reply in writing to REES and considers all that is necessary would be for him to telephone to acknowledge the letter. I have discussed it with him and we think that it is only necessary for him to say that of the 3 items which REES has provided - all of which we were very glad to receive - 2 were well known to us and of the third that Mr. Skardon has made a reconnaissance without being able to find the shop and that he would like to take the opportunity of exploring the district with Mrs. REES next time she finds it convenient to be in London. If you agree with the terms of this reply I will ask Mr. Skardon to telephone.

The London  
Done. cy  
21.5.14.56

RECEIVED  
NOTES  
20 NOV 1956  
8201 TCA

..... /



Reference PF.604,583.

Minute 186, cont.

The report from Clive at 182a is inaccurate. Mr. and Mrs. REES planned to take a holiday and had thought of going to Paris, but this idea was cancelled and yesterday REES came to London to stay with a friend of his, Douglas YOUNG, who lives at Marlow. REES will stay in London for a day or two and I hear that he has made arrangements to see ROTHMAN of "The People", David HIGHAM, his literary agent and, for some reason unknown, KINGSLEY MARTIN of the New Statesman.

Other developments given in much greater detail in the telephone check are that the manuscript of which we have a copy has been given to Donald SEAMAN of the "Daily Express", who told REES that Lord Beaverbrook had asked to see it, as "it might be financially helpful at some future date". SEAMAN has sent a copy to France, Beaverbrook having just gone there.

You will see from the press cutting at 184a that REES has got some local publicity which he has not been at all anxious to receive.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.

D.I.A.  
4.4.56.

187.

5.4.56.  
5.4.56.

From Home Office enclosing letter from J.F. Wolfenden. 187a.  
Photostat of L/L from Peter CALVOCORESSI to REES. 187b

188.

5.4.56.

Draft letter in reply to 187a. 188a.

189.

D.G.

Please see at 188a a draft reply to Sir F. Newsam's letter at 187a. The Peterborough cutting referred to by Wolfenden is at 180a. The "Western Mail" cutting, to which I refer in paragraph 6 of the draft, is at 184a. Wolfenden's letter, which is to be returned to Newsam, is attached to the file cover. A copy is behind 187a.

*G.R. Mitchell*

G.R. Mitchell.

D.  
5.4.56.

190.

6.4.56.  
6.4.56.  
6.4.56.

To H.O. 190a.  
To Foreign Office. 190b  
Note by L.A. 190c

191.

6.4.56.

From H.O. to Donnelly (M.P.). 191a.

192.

6.4.56.

To H.O. re draft letter to REES. 192a.

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193.

7.4.56. Draft note.

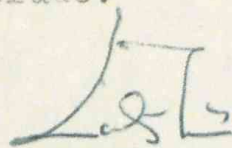
193a.

194.

D.

Please see at 193a a suggested draft note for the Home Secretary. I think I have covered all the points you wished to include.

D.1.  
9.4.56.



Courtenay Young.

195.

9.4.56. To H.O. enclosing note on REES, BURGESS and BLUNT.

195a.

196.

9.4.56. Press Cutting - Daily Mirror.

196a.

197.

10.4.56. Int. letter to REES from Kingsley Martin.

197a.

199.

11.4.56. Photostat of I/Ls to REES

199a

200.

11.4.56. Press cutting from the Daily Express.  
11.4.56. F.4. source report  
11.4.56. Personal letter from Mrs. REES to Mr. Skardon.

200a  
200b  
200c

201.

12.4.56. From G.P.O. enc. press cuttings.

201a

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Reference PF. 604,583

202.

12.4.56. From G.P.O. enc. cutting from Liverpool Daily Post.

202a

203.

12.4.56. From C.C. Cardiganshire re REES

203a

204.

13.4.56. To C.C. Cardiganshire re 203a

204a

205.

10.4.56. Note re meeting with Mr. and Mrs. REES on 15.4.56.

205a

206.

D.I.

Please see my note at 205a upon a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. REES on Sunday, 15 April. I have already initiated enquiries into the occupant of the clothing shop and will let you know the result of them.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.

D.I.A.  
16.4.56.

207.

16.4.56. D.I.A. note for file.

207a

208.

17.4.56.

*Removed on authority of K3/BP 5.2.69 Not relevant to this file.*  
*(See 196a in PF604582)*  
~~To J.G. Dickson.~~ <sup>dist.</sup> 208a

209.

19.4.56.

To 

209a

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MARCH 2022



210.

20.4.56.

To [redacted]

210a

211.

20.4.56.

Photostat of I/L to REES

211a

212.

20.4.56.

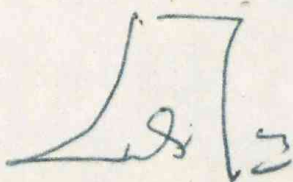
From G.F.O.

212a

213.

*cur*  
*23.4*  
D.D.G. (through D) *DL*  
*27/4/56*

You will be interested to see 212a,  
which shows that the Council of the University  
of Wales agree that being a Principal and a  
popular journalist are incompatible.

D.1.  
21.4.56


Courtenay Young

214.

24.4.56.

Telecheck material mentioning Sir Joseph BALL's writ

214a

216.

26.4.56.

Personal letter from REES to Skardon

216a

217.

30.4.56.

Extract from Who's Who re Sir Joseph BALL

217a



Reference PF. 604,583

218.

D.

199a was our first intimation that Sir Joseph BALL intended to take legal action about the allegations made in The People that BURGESS was a member of a British intelligence organisation run by Sir Joseph BALL. We heard no more about this until Mr. Skardon and I met REES on the 15 April. While we were driving back in the car from the East End REES told me that he had received a writ from Sir Joseph BALL's solicitors.

As you will see from the last paragraph of 210a REES did not tell me what he intended to do about this writ but said that he thought that Sir Joseph BALL was dead. I replied that I also thought he was dead but it appeared that we were both mistaken. REES asked me if it was true that BURGESS worked for Sir Joseph BALL. I replied that I had always thought that he did but I really did not know.

has told me that she understands that Sir Joseph BALL was an officer of M.I.5. until about 1930 but I think this is irrelevant to the main issue. I understand that he was also a member of the Swinton Committee during the war.

You will see from the telephone check at 214a that ROTHMAN discussed the writ with REES on 24 April.

D.1.A.  
30.4.56.

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.

219.

30.4.56.

To REES from Mr. Skardon

219a

220.

30.4.56.

I/L from REES' solicitors

220a



221.

D.  
Reference minute 218 the letter to REES from Mr. Skardon has been despatched today. A copy is at 219a. A further letter to REES from the solicitors of Odhams Press Simmons & Simmons, is to be found at 220a.

I have spoken to Colonel Cumming about 215a. - the allegation that Sir Joseph BALL was connected with this Office. Colonel Cumming confirms that it was so and that Sir Joseph BALL was head of B. Division until about 1931 or 1932. He will have an R. of S. which you may care to call for.

Colonel Cumming says that so far as he is aware Sir Joseph BALL was not connected with this Office in any particular intelligence capacity in 1938 but he was then and continues to be an intimate friend of Brigadier Harker and that as head of the research unit of the Conservative Central Office at that time he was occasionally in touch with members of this Office and frequently with Brigadier Harker.

D.1.A.  
30.4.56.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed

222.

D.D.G. *Thrupp L.A.*

I showed you today REES's letter to Mr. Skardon at 216a, and the reply which Mr. Skardon was then proposing to send, at 219a. Both have been seen by L.A.

I think you should be informed of the background to this correspondence, so far as it is known to D.1, and for this purpose I would draw your attention to Minutes 218 and 221.

D.  
30.4.56.

*J.C. Robertson*  
J. C. Robertson.

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Vol.3.

223.

1.5.56

Note by L.A. re discussion with Admiral Thomson re REES' and the People's libel action 223a

1.5.56.

Int. letter to REES 223b

2.5.56.

Ext. from letter from Mrs. BASSETT to BURGESS ment. REES. 223c

2.5.56.

Int. letter from Barbara KER-SEYMOUR 223d

224.

2.5.56

From Admiral Thomson - copy of letter received from the Editor of the People re the libel action. 224a

225.

3.5.56.

To Admiral Thomson, acknowledging receipt of 224a. 225a

226.

Director General

At 224a you will find a copy of the letter from the Editor of "The People" to Admiral Thomson which I mentioned at your meeting on Tuesday. I shall be happy to discuss the matter with you whenever this is convenient.

L.A.  
3.5.56

*B. A. Hill*

B.A. Hill

227.

L.A.

D.D.G. and I discussed minute 226 with you. We agreed that you should enquire of Mr. Reed and, subject to what he said, let the Admiral know that we have no information that BURGESS was ever employed in Sir Joseph Ball's organisation.

D.G.

*Rose Heston*

(31)  
WCTY1791/224  
6/54 828,000  
JC&SLtd  
Gp671/34  
REGIMENT  
18-75

3.5.56



228.

8.5.56. Int. letter

228

228z

8.5.56. L.A. note of conversation with Mr. Reed re REES,  
BURGESS and Sir Joseph BALL.

228a

229

Copy in PF.604529 BURGESS

D.D.G.

With reference to Min.227, you will find at 228a a note of my conversation today with Mr. Reed, from which I think it is clear that whilst he told Goronwy REES he thought it was true that BURGESS had worked for Sir Joseph BALL, he did not really know, but in the context of the meeting Reed agrees with me that it would not be unreasonable for Goronwy REES to believe from such conversation that M.I.5 had in fact information that Sir Joseph BALL did employ BURGESS.

In the circumstances I feel it most unwise for us to tell Admiral Thomson, for onward transmission to "The People", that we have no information that BURGESS was ever employed in Sir Joseph BALL's organisation. If we do pass this information through the Admiral to "The People", "The People" will undoubtedly get in touch with Goronwy REES who will give his version of the conversation he had with Reed. I think I should tell Admiral Thomson that I have looked into the matter and I am sorry we cannot furnish any information about it.

I think we must let the libel action take its normal course, and if Reed receives a subpoena to appear in such action we shall have to deal with it as and when it occurs.

L.A.  
8.5.56.

B.A. Hill.

10.5.56. Int. letter

229a

230.

L.A.

We spoke about your minute 229. Please give Admiral Thomson a telephone call in the sense you propose.

G.R. Mitchell.

D.D.G.  
11.5.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

231

11.5.56. L.A. note of conversation with Admiral Thomson, re  
Min.230.

231a



Reference PF.604583 V.3  
Copy in PF.604529 BURGESS

232

*14.5*  
D.D.G.

With reference to Min.230, I spoke to Admiral Thomson this afternoon and you will find a note of my conversation with him at 231a.

L.A.  
11.5.56.

*B. A. Hill*  
B.A. Hill.

233.

11.5.56  
14.5.56.

Photostat of int. letter  
re 215b

233a  
233b

11.5.56.

Tel. from BURGESS to his mother ment. REES

233c

234.

D.

With reference to 231a, paragraph 3, would you please look up what the Foreign Secretary said in the House of Commons on 13 February 1956 about BURGESS's Security Service employment? It may be that what he said would be helpful to "The People" in the event of their deciding to contest the action.

*G.R. Mitchell*

D.D.G.  
14.5.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

*Seen thank you. It would obviously not be helpful.*  
*15.5*

235.

D.D.G.

Reference your Minute 234. You will find the relevant extract from Hansard in the attached PF.604558/Supp.C, Vol. 12, at 503a.

*J. C. Robertson*  
J. C. Robertson.

D.  
15.5.56.

236.

D.1.

I have answered the letter [redacted] at 233b by telling them that we do not intend to card John SPARROW. You may however like to see the reference to Kenneth YOUNGER upon which I have not commented.

51-6987  
V.P.Co.  
(REGIMINT)  
Code 18-75

15.5.56.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.



237.

22.5.56. Loose minute to C.I.B./RTR.

237a.

FILE CLOSED

FILE CLOSED

FILE CLOSED

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(34) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



TOP SECRET

PERSONAL

Loose minute.

237a

C.I.B. - Mr. Reed.

Reference our telephone conversation this afternoon. The file is in bits but the relevant extract from your note on your interview with REES is as follows:

"REES next suggested the name 'PICTON'. I replied that this did not ring much of a bell with me but I thought that we had been aware of his name. I would certainly look into it."

2. "PICTON's" name was mentioned immediately after that of ZAEHNER and immediately before that of REVAL. That I fear is all that we have on record as regards REES's allegations.

3. Having regard to "PICTON's" recent appointment D.D.G. would be grateful if you could expand on this, especially if you could indicate whether you thought REE was shooting wildly or really meant it. He certainly hit a number of bells starting with CAIRNCROSS and moving immediately on to ORANGE.

D.I.  
22.5.56.

Courtenay Young.

TOP SECRET

PERSONAL



Copy for PF.604,583 REES ✓

Original in PF.604,529 BURGESS

COPY

520/B2

14 MAY 1950

2338

BASSETT. 14. ARLINGTON HOUSE ARLINGTON STREET LONDON/SW1

SWEET BUNCH OF LETTERS FROM YOU AND SEVERAL LOYAL FRIENDS  
ALL EQUALLY INDIGNANT ABOUT REES THINK HAD BETTER READ ALL  
ARTICLES AS YOU SUGGEST CAN YOU SEND ALL OF THEM ALL  
LOVE VERY BUSY BUT WILL WRITE SOONEST YOU DO NOT FORGET  
NEW ADDRESS POST RESTANTE MAIN POST OFFICE AR

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



TOP SECRET

PERSONAL

233D

PF.604,583/D.1.A./RTR

14 May, 1956.

Dear [redacted]

21/56

Many thanks for your letter of 24 April, 1956, about REES' book and in particular for the mention of [John SPARROW.] PF.605,540

To take your last paragraph first we shall not be carding SPARROW as a result of REES' mention of him. REES' allegation is that SPARROW was a homosexual friend of BURGESS in the 1930's and there is no suggestion in the book, neither have we received any other information to support it that SPARROW has at any time been engaged with BURGESS in subversive or espionage activities. While I agree it is as well to take note of the association I do not think we have any grounds for carding SPARROW and if you do put through a further tracing enquiry for him you will get no trace as a result of it.

I have noted what you say about Kenneth YOUNGER.

Yours sincerely,

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. REED.

TOP SECRET

PERSONAL

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020



233a



M. Goronwy Rees, Esq.,

Plas Penglais,

ABERYSTWYTH.

Pa Rees

9561 1956



SIMMONS &amp; SIMMONS.

1, THREADNEEDLE STREET,

W. L. HODGES  
 E. H. G. SIMMONS.  
 G. F. H. DENNEHY  
 P. RICHARDSON  
 R. L. VIGARS.  
 A. J. L. SKELTON.  
 A. J. HOLFORD-STREVENS.

Enc.

LONDON, E. C. 2.

CABLES: "CONTROL LONDON"  
 TELEGRAMS: "CONTROL, STOCK, LONDON"  
 TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 6171.

10th May, 1956.

OUR REF. AB/EK.E.2227.

YOUR REF.

M. Goronwy Rees, Esq.,  
 Plas Penglais,  
 Aberystwyth.

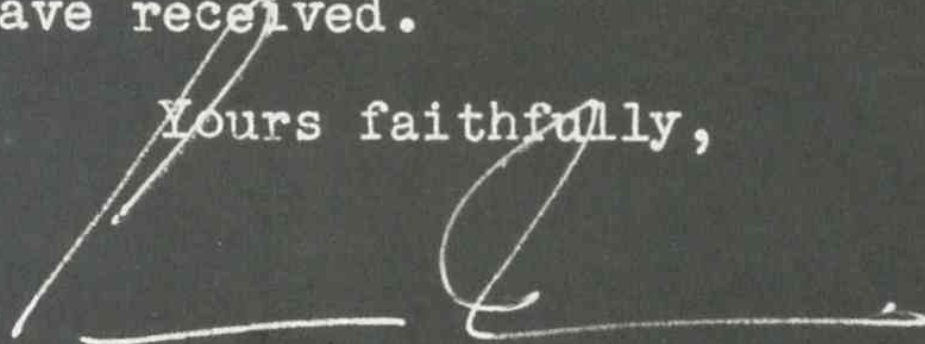
Dear Sir,

Sir Joseph Ball -v- Yourself  
and Odhams Press Ltd.

Further to our letter to you of the 27th April, we have now received the Statement of Claim in this matter and enclose a copy for your use. We are instructing Counsel to settle the Defence and to advise and we should like to hear from you as soon as possible with any information or documents you may have in your possession which may be of assistance to Counsel.

We observe from your letter of the 24th April to Mr. Rothman that you had written to Mr. Isaiah Berlin and we should be interested to know what, if any, reply you have received.

Yours faithfully,



4821

W



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

SIR JOSEPH BALL, K.B.E.

- and -

M. GORONWY REES (Male)  
NATHAN ROTHMAN,  
ODHAMS PRESS LIMITED

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

MESSRS. WILLIAM CHARLES CROFT  
42, Gracechurch Street,  
London, E.C.3.

6B'

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

1956 B. No. 1273

WRIT issued the 20th day of April, 1956.

B E T W E E N :

SIR JOSEPH BALL, K.B.E. Plaintiff

- and -

M. GORONWY REES (Male)  
NATHAN ROTHMAN,  
ODHAMS PRESS LIMITED Defendants

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

1. The Plaintiff is a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and was shortly before the last war engaged upon duties which included Political research for the Conservative Party.
2. The Defendants are respectively a contributor to, the features editor of and the proprietors printers and publishers of a Sunday newspaper called "The People" which has a wide and extensive circulation in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.
3. On page 3 of the issue of the said newspaper dated the 25th March, 1956 the first named Defendant falsely and maliciously wrote and caused to be printed and published and the second named Defendant falsely and maliciously caused to be printed and published and the third named Defendant falsely and maliciously printed and published of the Plaintiff the following words:-  
"Burgess Stripped Bare.  
The impudence and daring of Guy Burgess - Britain's greatest-ever traitor - knew no limits. He even kept his copy of Kinsey's sex report in the Foreign Secretary's private safe!  
In this important series of articles, Burgess's closest friend - a man holding a high academic post -

1.

6B747



reveals the full fantastic truth about this enemy of Britain. It is a revelation told exclusively to "People" readers.

HE KEPT HIS SEX BOOK IN ERNEST BEVIN'S SAFE.

While Guy Burgess was an active Russian spy he was actually recruited into a British intelligence organisation.

Incredible? I am afraid it is embarrassingly true. Embarrassing to the Foreign Office at any rate, which has carefully covered up this episode in my friend's past.

It happened shortly before the war, when, of course, no one suspected that Burgess was a spy.

All the same, it is strange, to say the least, that a man who led so notorious a private life should have been given a highly confidential post.

For the organisation which took Burgess under its wing consisted of a group of men, under Sir Joseph Ball, who supplied information destined for the private ear of no less a personage than Sir Horace Wilson, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's personal adviser.

Guy not only became a member of the group. He enlisted at least one friend - one of the most brilliant Oxford historians of his time.

He certainly had no idea that Guy was a Russian Agent. He was fond of him - as I was - but thoroughly disapproved of his way of life.

In fact, they were an oddly assorted pair. Yet, such are the fantasies that war produces, that they were sent out together on a secret mission in 1940.

Together they travelled to America. The friend was due to go on to Moscow. Guy was ordered

to remain in Washington.

But before their mission could get really going, they received a wire from the War Office.

"Burgess will return to London", it said.

"Your assistant may do as he likes."

That wire had one extremely useful result. It gave Guy's friend the chance of joining our Embassy in Washington, where he gave distinguished service. His brilliant despatches were favourite reading matter during the war at the Foreign Office.

But there was one terribly damaging consequence. Guy Burgess got a foothold in the British Secret Service that eventually brought him into intimate contact with its chiefs.

For soon after his return to London he was allowed to join one of the most important of our war-time secret agencies - the Special Operations Executive, which controlled all underground activities in Europe.

Naturally, no one in Special Operations knew that Burgess was a spy. But they ought at least to have known that he was not the sort of man to be entrusted with highly secret duties.

For only a short while before, he was up in court for drunken driving through the streets of London! And his conduct outside his secret work was appalling.

He had the use of a flat in Bentinck St., Mayfair, which belonged to Victor, later Lord, Rothschild, who had been a friend of his at Cambridge.

But I am sure Victor Rothschild did not realise how Burgess was behaving in the flat. Quite bluntly, when Burgess had visitors it sometimes looked like a disorderly house in every sense of the term.

For Guy brought men along with whom he was conducting unnatural love affairs. And there were other



visitors, among them, believe it or not, an important member of the counter-espionage branch of the War Office known as M.I.5.

#### JEKYLL AND HYDE

His Jekyll and Hyde character also enabled him to gain the friendship of reputable and influential people in all sorts of circles.

Once I met John Strachey there. He then held an important defence post. After the war he became War Minister in the Labour Government.

There were civil servants, politicians and serving officers. I was one of them. For at that time I was a major on the planning staff of Montgomery's 21st Army Group.

None of us had any inkling of the fact that even then Burgess was attempting to gather secret information for the Kremlin. And certainly he got none from Strachey, myself or his other reputable friends.

But he was undoubtedly moving in circles where he could hope to pick up titbits of rare importance. And occasionally a fleeting doubt crossed my mind about his loyalty to Britain.

Before the war he once astounded me by claiming to be an agent of the Communist International. Then, in 1939, he gave me to understand that he had dropped his work for Moscow.

He was my closest friend, and I believed him. But I said to myself from time to time: "If Guy is still working for Moscow, his flat is a wonderful base of operations."

Yet how could I now think of him as a foreign spy? Some of his best friends were actually high officers of our counter-spy organisation. He himself

4.

6B747 5B747

was a trusted member of a secret war agency.

All his colleagues and high-up friends accepted him as a loyal and valuable citizen of Britain. I could do no less.

And then came what seemed final proof that Guy was wholly to be trusted as a staunch patriot. He was given a post in the most exclusive of all Government departments - the Foreign Office.

When I went to visit him there after the war he gave every sign that he was supremely confident of his unshakable position as a diplomat.

#### 'HUMAN MALE'

There is one visit I shall never forget. It took place shortly after the publication in America of Kinsey's famous "Report on the Sexual Activities in the Human Male."

It was as yet unobtainable in this country. But Guy had had a copy sent to him from America.

I was interested in the book and Guy promised to lend it to me. I agreed to call for the book at the Foreign Office.

I was shown into his room. But when I asked him about the book he said he did not have it with him.

"So many people in the office want to borrow it," he said, "that I have had to hide it."

"I'll have to go for it. You'd better come with me."

I followed him out of the room and down the dusty corridors of the Foreign Office until we came to what was evidently a very important room indeed. Guy stood for a moment abashed on the threshold.

Then he said: "It's all right, he's not here," and opened the door.

I followed him into a vast room that seemed to be

5.



all red plush. There was an immensely long table, behind which stood an ornately carved chair. "Where are we?" I asked. I was feeling alarmed, almost overcome by the sombre Victorian splendour.

"It's the Foreign Secretary's room," said Guy. "I love it."

"For Heaven's sake let's get out," I said. "I've no business here."

"Oh, it's all right," said Guy. "Ernie Bevin's away. Besides, I've got to get the book".

In one corner was a safe - open. Guy went over, fumbled among some files, then fished out "The Kinsey Report"!

"What on earth is it doing there?" I asked.

"Oh, I keep it here," he said "I knew no one would think of looking for it in Ernie's safe. And if he found it he wouldn't know what it was."

Such was the boldness, not to say impudence, that Guy Burgess displayed in the holy of holies of British diplomacy.

His first Foreign Office post was in the News Department. It gave him an inside view of British policy and put him in touch with correspondents from all over the world.

No doubt he made good use of the diplomatic gossip that came his way. But then he rose to a position that gave him constant access to one of the makers of British foreign policy - Hector McNeil, Minister of State and second in command to Ernest Bevin himself.

He became McNeil's Personal Secretary - though to this day I wonder how the Minister could tolerate Guy as a subordinate.

He was incredibly disorderly and irregular in

6.

6B747 6B747

his habits. He drank so much that he was often in an alcoholic torpor.

At that time he had begun to take drugs, too - sedatives to calm his nerves. After which he immediately swallowed some stimulant to revive himself.

#### GARLIC EATER

Since he invariably did everything to excess, he munched his tablets as children munch sweets, in ceaseless succession until the supply ran out.

To cap everything - from the point of view of his long-suffering colleagues - he was a ravenous garlic-eater.

He did not use it, like most people, as a flavouring, but as a vegetable.

Knobs of it were always in his pockets and in a drawer of his desk. He gobbled them like apples.

The nuisance got so bad that once a departmental minute was circulated saying: "Mr. Burgess will in future refrain from munching garlic during office hours."

It made no difference. Guy just laughed - and went on gobbling his garlic.

His behaviour was outrageous. But no doubt it was also an additional cover for his spying activities.

A spy is notoriously discreet. Guy Burgess had thrown discretion to the four winds.

I do not imagine that, viewing this dissolute man in one of his riotous jaunts, anyone could have supposed he was Russia's master spy in Britain.

Yet, just because he was so wildly indiscreet, he was the last man who should have been chosen for a particularly delicate Foreign Office mission.

But he was! I shall tell you about that extraordinary episode next week."

4. By reason of the premises the Plaintiff has been

7.



seriously injured in his character credit and reputation and has been brought into public scandal odium and contempt.

AND the Plaintiffs claims DAMAGES.

P. COLIN DUNCAN

DELIVERED the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1956 by  
MESSRS. WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER of 42, Gracechurch  
Street, London, E.C.3. Solicitors for the Plaintiff.



231A

PF.604583 REES  
Copy in PF.604529 BURGESS

I spoke with Admiral Thomson this afternoon and told him that I was afraid I was unable to help him or "The People", and I could not say whether or not it was true that BURGESS was employed by Sir Joseph BALL. Admiral Thomson said it did not really matter because he had lunched yesterday with Mr. Stuart Campbell, Editor of "The People", and he had then told Mr. Campbell that he had not been able to find out the information he required.

As to the libel action, Mr. Campbell indicated to Admiral Thomson that if Sir Joseph BALL wanted a reasonable sum in settlement "The People" would settle, but if he was out for heavy damages they intended to fight the case. The line "The People" are taking is this:- how can Sir Joseph BALL suffer damage to his personal reputation by employing BURGESS, when BURGESS was employed by the Foreign Office and by the B.B.C.?

I gathered from Admiral Thomson that "The People" had no firm evidence to show that BURGESS was employed by M.I.5, but if they could get any firm evidence they would bring in M.I.5 as well.

L.A.  
11.5.56.

B. A. Hill.



Personal



Principal Goronwy Rees,  
University College  
Aberystwyth,  
N.Wales

10 MAY 1956





E/26

V. 621706

4428

9<sup>th</sup> May. 1956

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

66, ST JAMES'S STREET, S.W.1.

Pay *Baroness Rees, Esq.*

Five pounds ten shillings and

£5-10-10.

ten pence

For AITKEN (English) COMPANY LIMITED.

DIRECTOR.

SECRETARY.

M

10

4763

F



LORD BEAVERBROOK'S OFFICE  
121/8, FLEET STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.4.  
FLEET ST. 8000

9th. May 1956

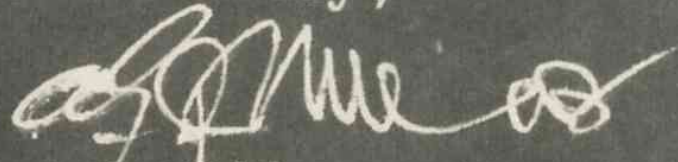
Dear Principal,

I confirm the arrangement made over the telephone today, that Lord Beaverbrook will see you this Friday, May 11th. at 5pm at Flat 95 Arlington House, SW.1.

If you do not know this block of flats, it is in Arlington Street, which runs down from Piccadilly, beside the Ritz Hotel.

I would have sent you a ticket for your journey but just in case this letter is delayed in the post I send you a cheque for £5.10.10 covering the first class return fare.

Yours truly,

  
A.G. Millar

Principal Goronwy Rees,  
University College,  
Aberystwyth,  
N. Wales.

10	4763	F
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PF. 604583 V.3  
Copy in PF. 604529 BURGESS

22

I saw Mr. Reed this afternoon and asked him to tell me what conversations he had, if any, with Mr. Goronwy REES relating to the fact that BURGESS was employed in Sir Joseph BALL's organisation.

No 1 | Reed said that his conversations with REES on this subject were noted at serial 210a and in the second paragraph of Min. 218. Serial 210a is entirely irrelevant to this matter, but from Min. 218 it is clear that Goronwy REES asked Reed whether it was true that BURGESS worked for Sir Joseph BALL, and that Reed replied that he always thought that he did but he did not know. I asked Reed if he could amplify the statement he made. Reed said that to the best of his recollection he said the words recorded in Min. 218. He made that statement because he said he had in his mind at the time that Sir Joseph BALL was in some way connected with Intelligence before the war. This of course was an erroneous impression, but Reed said he had that fact in mind.

Reed also said that this statement was made at the second interview which he and Mr. Skardon had with REES, and that at the date of this interview the relations between Reed and Goronwy REES were friendly and co-operative. Reed admits that he cannot claim that this particular interview was made subject to the Official Secrets Acts, or that in any event the statement he made to REES dealing with the employment of BURGESS by Sir Joseph BALL was in any way relevant to the matter they were then investigating. In other words, it was purely an expression of opinion by Reed based on information which he then believed to be true, but which he now knows to be erroneous.

Nevertheless, Reed is inclined to agree with me that this statement having been made by him, Goronwy REES would understand that statement, coming as it did from an Intelligence officer of M.I.5, to be factually true, i.e. that Reed was in fact giving him a tip-off without making a factual statement.

L.A.  
8.5.56.

B.A. Hill. *B.A. Hill*





Principal Goronwy Rees,  
University College  
Aberystwyth  
N. Wales

LAYED THROUGH BEING  
STED IN A LETTER BOX  
LONDON LETTERS  
SENDER

1

4635

F

8 MAY 1956



LORD BEAVERBROOK'S OFFICE  
121/8, FLEET STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.4.  
FLEET ST. 8000

5th. May 1956

Dear Principal,

Lord Beaverbrook would very much like to have conversation with you again.

If you would be kind enough to let me know when you plan to be in London again, I will arrange a meeting with Lord Beaverbrook, and at the same time will send you a ticket to cover your journey to and from Aberystwyth.

Yours truly,

  
A.G. Millar

Principal Goronwy Rees,  
University College,  
Aberystwyth.  
N. Wales.

*P. a Rees*

1

4635

F



**SECRET** 2259PF. 604,583/LA/BAH

3rd May 1956

My dear Admiral, 224A

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter you have received from the Editor of "The People" about the libel action Sir Joseph Ball is instituting against them.

I doubt whether we can be of any assistance to the "People", but I will discuss the matter with my Director General and thereafter will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Hill  
B.A. Hill

Admiral G.P. Thomson, C.B., C.B.E.,  
Services, Press & Broadcasting Committee,  
Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square,  
S.W.1.

**SECRET** 22/495  
3/5



Copy - for information - to Mr. B. A. Hill

Rec'd 2/5  
2249

THE PEOPLE

Editorial Offices,  
92, Long Acre,  
London, W.C.2.

28th April, 1956.

My dear Thomson,

Quite apart from the fact that it really is time we had that lunch together I wonder if I could solicit your help in what I fear you may think is something rather too delicate for you to touch.

It concerns our feature series on Burgess which, as you know, came from Goronwy Rees. There was one paragraph in it which has brought us legal trouble - from no less a person than Sir Joseph Ball.

I enclose the article concerned with the paragraph marked. Apparently Sir Joseph regards it as a shocking reflection on himself that he should have been described as a person who was so indiscriminating as to take Burgess into his organisation.

Yet Rees himself assures us it is true, although of course he has no evidence other than that of information supplied to him by Burgess and one or two others - friends of both of them who were, he says, mixed up with the same organisation.

I fear I can get no help from these people since they will all claim that they were doing secret work and cannot discuss it. Therefore I wondered if you could possibly make a discreet inquiry in the right quarter to find out whether there is any truth in this statement at all. I ask no more. Obviously I have no intention of quoting you or anyone else on the matter but if we are to resist a possible action for libel I do want to know where I stand.

Over/

LA/MAS  
2/5



- 2 -

I understand that it may be that Sir Joseph's organisation was an entirely different one from the one in which Burgess had a part and that although they occasionally met they were not, in fact, associated officially.

The lunch is a much more cheerful matter and I would like to see you again. I am only free on Friday next week but any day the week after, except Monday, will suit me. You have only to say when.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd: Stuart Campbell

Rear-Admiral G. P. Thomson,  
Services, Press & Broadcasting Committee,  
Canning House,  
2 Belgrave Square,  
S.W.1.





Guanoy New York,  
Plan Penzance,  
Abingdon Ch,  
Candor.

2 - MAY 1966

10

4308

D



LONDON & BIRMINGHAM  
23 APRIL - 4 MAY 1956  
BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR



from  
Ker - Seymour  
11 Ely Way Square



Gordon Rees Esq  
Return Club  
Pall Mall S.W.  
Off Kings Bench Walk,  
Temple E.C. 4.





II, FITZROY SQUARE.

W. I.

EUSTON 2341.

Annie 24th.

Dear Gordon,

Where are you? What  
up? I'm worried about you.

I've been in New  
York as you know, just returned  
recently. I heard rumours that  
all was not going well owing  
to some articles in "The People".  
Charles Boxer went up to Aberystwyth  
to be at me last week, and I gave  
him instructions to inquire  
about you, and ~~he~~ ~~the~~ when  
he asked, fingers were put to lips  
and he was told your name must  
not be mentioned! They said they  
were having a meeting about  
you that week. Charles passed

10	4308	D	X
----	------	---	---



your house, but it was shuttered  
up. That might not mean any-  
thing as it is holiday time!

Hope you haven't been thrown  
out of your club. & this will  
never reach you!

Do get in touch with me. I'm  
well and busy. How are Margie  
and the children?

Love

Barbara

10	4308	D	X
----	------	---	---



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

(51685) WT63115 GP.677

Extract for File No.: PF.604,583 Name: REES, Goronwy

Original in File No.:\* PF.604,529 Vol.: Serial: Receipt Date: 2.5.56.

Original from: Intercept letter Under Ref.: Dated:

Extracted on: 3.5.56. by: PMD Section: D.1.A.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM MRS. BASSETT TO GUY BURGESS MENTIONING REES

.....

About Goronwy and the articles, I haven't seen David again, but I am told G. was paid £2,500 for the articles, on the 11 April there was an article in the Daily Express - but perhaps it will be best to enclose it in this in case you haven't seen it - you will see how right you are in saying he might lose his job - there has been no more in the papers, so I expect with his charm and unscrupulousness he has been able to wangle that he remains in the job - with its nice house and garden etc. - I hear he even wrote more than was accepted and printed by the People - I haven't heard any gossip about reactions from general public, except that Cyril CONNOLLY, who, as far as I can remember has not been friendly to you, is disgusted with articles as coming from a friend.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner





Goronwy Rees Esq.,

Plas Penglais,

Aberyswyth, WALES



*Dr. A. A. O. Darnley*  
*11 MAY 1956*  
*1/1*



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Cables: HIPOL, LONDON.

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LONDON, W.C.2.

DIRECTORS:

David Higham.  
Laurence Pollinger. } Managing  
Jean Leroy. Gerald Pollinger.  
Monica Preston. Paul Scott.

30th April 1956

Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberyswyth,  
WALES

Dear Mr Rees,

The Melbourne Argus, having expressed interest in your People serial, we have been arguing with them about the fee and I am sorry to say that they simply will not pay more than £8 sterling per instalment, a total of £40 in all. We consider this offer very low indeed, even for State rights, and felt we could not possibly accept without putting it up to you. What do you think?

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Jean LeRay*

LR/CL

Although every reasonable care is taken of MS. while in our possession we can accept no responsibility for any loss or damage thereto.

4264



Reference PF.604,583

2239

N O T E  
-----

Admiral Thomson saw me yesterday afternoon and showed me a letter he had received from Mr. Stewart CAMPBELL, editor of "The People", relative to the libel action Sir Joseph BALL was bringing against "The People". I asked Admiral Thomson to send me a copy of the letter, which he will do.

In the meantime, all that need be said is that there seems a reasonable chance, on conditions, that we may be able to settle this action. If the "People" can be assured by Admiral Thomson that there is no truth whatever in the story published, that BURGESS worked for Sir Joseph BALL's organisation, then it looks very much as if "The People" will try to settle it.

L.A.  
1.5.56

B.A. Hill

B.A. Hill

REGIMITE

(1945)  
JC&SLtd  
Gp736/210  
Code 5-35-0

LA/HAS  
2/5





*27 30/4*

Goronwy Rees, Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
ABERYSTWYTH.

<i>6</i>	4167	<i>D</i>
----------	------	----------

30 APR 1956



SIMMONS &amp; SIMMONS.

W. L. HODGES.  
 E. H. G. SIMMONS.  
 O. F. H. DENNEHY.  
 P. RICHARDSON.  
 R. L. VIGARS.  
 A. J. L. SKELTON.  
 A. J. HOLFORD-STREVS.

CABLES: "CONTROL LONDON"  
 TELEGRAMS: "CONTROL, STOCK, LONDON"  
 TELEPHONE: LONDON WALL 6171.

I, THREADNEEDLE STREET,

LONDON, E.C.2.

2200  
27th April, 1956

OUR REF. AB/IT E.2227

YOUR REF. ....

Goronwy Rees, Esq.,  
 Plas Penglais,  
 Aberystwyth.

Dear Sir,

Sir Joseph Ball v. Yourself and  
Odhams Press Ltd.

We act for Odhams Press Ltd., on whose behalf, and on behalf of Mr. Rothman, we have already entered an Appearance to the Writ served upon them in this matter.

Mr. Rothman has sent to us a copy of your letter to him of the 24th April instructing us to act on your behalf, and we have accordingly today entered an Appearance to the Writ which has been served upon you. The next step is for the Plaintiff to deliver his Statement of Claim, and when we receive this document we will be able to consider the matter more fully. As soon as we receive the Statement of Claim, we will of course let you know, and in conjunction with Odhams Press Ltd. we will take such steps as may be necessary to deal with this matter.

Yours faithfully,

6

4167

D



Room 055 paper.

219a

30 April, 1956.

Dear Mr Rees

Thank you for your letter of 24th April.

I find myself in some difficulty in offering advice on the matters you discussed. Officially, of course, my answer must be "You will have to go back to your original sources to confirm the facts". Obviously it would not be proper or possible to tap official records whatever they may or may not disclose and you will have to prepare your defence on the strength of the information in your possession when you wrote your thesis.

I only hope you are taking good legal advice in this matter and are not depending upon your own wit.

I enjoyed meeting Mrs. Rees again. Did you hoist in the fact that the shop we inspected was the scene of a recent murder; the result of the case being published in the Press of Saturday 28th April.

Yours



W.J. Skardon.

Goronwy, Rees, Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

(49864) WT.33778 GP.698

Extract for File No.: PF.604,583 Name: REES 217a

Original in File No.:\* Vol.: Serial: Receipt Date:

Original from: WHO's WHO Under Ref.: Dated:

Extracted on: 30.4.56. by: PMD Section: D.1.A.

EXTRACT FROM WHO's WHO RE SIR JOSEPH BALL

BALL, Sir (George) Joseph, K.B.E., cr. 1936 (O.B.E. 1919); Chairman and Managing Director Henderson's Transvaal Estates Ltd.; London and Rhodesia Mining and Land Co.; African Investment Trust Ltd., and of five Associated Companies; Chairman: Lake View & Star Ltd.; Director: New Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa Ltd. and of four associated companies; Beaumont Property Trust Ltd. and subsidiaries; b. 1885; s. of late George Ball, Salisbury. Educ.: King's College School, Strand; King's Coll. London. Called to Bar, Gray's Inn (1st Cl. Hons.) 1913; European War, 1914-19 (O.B.E.). Director of Conservative Research Department 1930-39; Deputy Chairman National Publicity Bureau 1934-39; Deputy Chairman Security Executive, 1940-42. Address; The Old Mill, Ramsbury, Wilts. Clubs: Flyfishers', Pratt's, City of London, Royal Automobile, Bath.

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

217a  
30/4/56



PLAS PENGLAIS,  
ABERYSTWYTH.

TEL. 7083.

26 APR 1956

216a

24. IV. 56

Dear Mr Standen

I am sorry to trouble you, but I should be grateful if you could give me some advice; I thought that in any case I ought to tell you what has happened.

Sir Joseph Ball has issued a writ for libel against me and The People, for saying that Guy worked for his organization. My evidence for saying so was, of course, that Isaiah Berlin said that he had been recruited by Guy for Sir J. B.'s organization, and also of course that Anthony had said so; but I doubt whether either of these would willingly repeat this to me now.

It so happened that I spoke to your companion (whose name I don't know) the other day about Sir Joseph Ball and he confirmed that Guy had worked for him. I realize of course that I cannot quote this; but I wonder if there is any way at all in which you can help me in this trouble.

In any case, I thought I should tell you, because if things come to the worst, that is, to court, I suppose I should have to call Anthony as a witness, which might make things very difficult all round.

You told me when you visited us here that I should have troubles as a result of the articles, and indeed troubles are gathering around me thick and fast.

I enjoyed your visit to the East End and so did my wife

Yours sincerely  
Gordon Rees.



215a  
215b

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



S. Form 338

SECRET

NAME: REES

T.C. No.: 3003

Tel. No.: Aberystwyth 7083

Date: 23.4.56.  
24.4.56. (PART 1)

Responsible Section: D.I.a.

Thank you.

D.D. informed in outline.

JL 25/4



You may care to glance at this. One man handles the time probably expensive, burden on Rees's shoulders!

CJ

Outgoing call from MARGY to REES at College asking about the painters. She thought they should do the outside of the house and the two attic bedrooms. REES agreed but thought he should mention it to MARGARET first.

11.58.

/ROBERTS

Incoming call from Miss DAVIS to the Principal (REES), who thanked her for ringing back. He told her that JOHN ROBERTS (BRIK), who ran the Gannymede Press, was lecturing at the College on Thursday and he would very much like to go out to Gregannock (?) to see the pictures. Miss DAVIS agreed that either Friday or Saturday morning would be convenient. REES said he could not bring him along himself but someone would motor him over.

20.01.

24.4.56. (PART 1)

Outgoing call from MARGY to REES about HANS (WISSMAN - the German boy.) She had taken him along this morning to the Labour Exchange where he had been called for interview with regard to his application for a permit for an extended stay here, in order to learn the language. MARGY thought she should go along to the Exchange to enquire about a work permit for the German girl who was expected on 5th May, otherwise they would have the same trouble with her; a visa for one month was useless.

11.50.

There were further calls between MARGY, JENKINS and the Ministry of Labour about the German girl who wished to come here au pair for a year and to help with the children in return for her keep and pocket money and to learn English. They were querying what sort of permit would cover this.

JENKINS reminded MARGY that they were dining out tomorrow and Thursday. Tomorrow at the Talbot meeting Mrs. PRIESTLEY with coffee in the senior common room after the lecture. On Thursday at the Bellevue for JOHN ROBERTS of the Gannymede Press. MARGY mentioned that they were going away on Friday.

Incoming call to REES from BETHMAN.

R. We've had a writ from our friend Sir JOSEPH BALL. Have you had one?

G. No.

R. You haven't?

(GORONWY REES)



-2-

G. No.

R. Well, you know there was a long silence from him after we published this thing?

G. Yes.

R. Well, we had a writ in the other day and we wondered if you had one because the writ that I've got puts you in as one of the defendants.

G. Aha.

R. And I was rather expecting to hear that you'd had one too.

G. No I haven't had one.

R. Well you will get one; that's absolutely certain.

G. Well, thank you for warning me.

R. Well, I was suggesting what to do about it. I mean, obviously he wants to have a little fight about it. Wouldn't it be advisable if we all had the same solicitors?

G. Yes it would.

R. Our solicitors are SIMONDS and SIMONDS (ph.) and then they would put in an appearance for all of us. It's the easiest way of handling it and reduces costs all round.

G. Yes. Do I take it you would look after me?

R. Well, I don't know to what extent honestly. I mean I'd like our solicitors to act for you but I'm not sure how - you know, we'd look at the question of handling all the costs and obviously it would be a great deal less if we all went in together.

G. Oh yes.

R. And that's certain. How far else we could help, I don't know. It's not really for me to say. but in any case we've all got a joint interest in the matter.

G. Yes, indeed.

R. Now the chief thing obviously - all this rests on ISAIAH BERLIN - as you realise. I mean what he says about the thing - I mean, he's the only available witness to what, in fact, happened with the BALL outfit.

G. Yep.

R. And it is rather important to get hold of him for him to make some sort of statement.

G. Well, I don't think he will help me.

R. He won't.

G. No because he's so angry.

R. (laughingly) Well, he shouldn't be, we kept him out ...



-3-

G. No, he's so angry about the whole thing.

R. I see. Well, what other evidence is there then?

G. Uhm -

R. You see, I don't know what Sir JOSEPH - he is denying presumably that BURGESS ever was in his organisation.

G. Yes.

R. BERLIN is the only one I know, from what you have said, who could confirm positively that he was.

G. Look here, shall I write you a letter and tell you exactly what the evidence is.

R. Yes. The point is, I want to know who can give us the evidence.

G. Yep.

R. Eventually if it gets that far, which I don't suppose it would, but if it gets that far we must have a witness to go in the box and say, 'Well, I was a member of the thing,' or 'I know because BALL told me,' or because 'I was in it myself and so was BURGESS' - you know what I mean.

G. Yep.

R. I think you really must have another go at BERLIN.

G. What?

R. You must have another go at roping him in to say so. He's only being asked to say the truth.

G. Yep.

R. You see we could subpoena him but er -

G. I know. Right you are.

R. Force him to do it but I want to know in advance as it were what he would say.

G. Yep. Well, I will write to him.

R. Will you? And would you let me know any other (? source) - ?

G. Yes, I will.

R. Anyway to see if you can - and finally approach BERLIN personally if needs be.

G. Yes. I don't think he's on speaking terms with me now.

R. Lord! (Laughter.) Well, anyway we'll consider that when we can - in the meantime, do write me and do write BERLIN.

G. I will.

R. And if you do get a writ, will you just send a copy on to me?



-4-

G. Yes.

R. And I'll pass it on to our solicitors and let them enter an appearance for all of us.

G. Right you are. Thank you very much.

R. I don't know - you know these things often start and then take a long, long time before anything happens but in the meantime we have to go through these motions.

G. Yes. Well, I'm glad it's in your able hands.

(The next few sentences were lost due to a TIM induction.)

G. I take it you would protect me then because you said you would.

R. Well all - I can't protect you against anything (? you wrote with your own hand.) I mean if it turns out to be a wrong fact about Sir JOSEPH BALL, then I don't see how we can protect you.

G. You wouldn't?

R. Well, you see, because it's on your own statement - providing us with a fact that turns out to be wrong, I don't see how we can protect you. You see when our lawyers go through all this, they go through to look for dangers and so on but they naturally accept the facts that are given them by the writers. And you see if the fact that you provided is wrong, it makes it difficult for me to argue with my bosses here, that we should -

G. Oh, no, but you assured me -

R. I didn't say that I would protect you absolutely unconditionally. If you have tripped up over a fact there is nothing that we can do about it ... Our boys are there to see whether - they assume that the facts are right but it's the way that it's put - you see what I mean?

G. Look, you know, I talked to you about this very carefully and you said 'don't you bother about that.'

R. Well, I didn't -

G. You really did. Yes, you really did.

R. Any unconditional guarantee. I don't see how I could. You see on the JOSEPH BALL XXIX thing, it was your own thing - it was almost insistence that I -

G. No, it was not because I said I thought he was dead and I asked you to check up on it.

R. Oh, no!

G. Yes I did. I did.

R. Well, anyway I really don't recall that.

G. That really is so.

R. However, let's not worry about that aspect.



-5-

G. Right you are.

R. But it really is essential about getting evidence and particularly by BERLIN if you possibly can do anything.

G. Yep.

R. In the meantime, do send me along a copy of the writ and I'll get them to do whatever is necessary.

G. Thanks very much.

R. All right?

G. Right.

R. Thank you very much. Good-bye.

12.55.

JW.



Telephone Nos.

HEA 4267.

,, 4209.

**SECRET**

Your ref.:

Our ref.: I.B. 52629.



*212a*

SPECIAL SECTION,  
INVESTIGATION BRANCH,  
HEADQUARTERS, G.P.O.,  
LONDON . . . E.C.1.

20th. April 1956.

**20 APR 1956**

*2074*

Dear Reed,

The original of the enclosed copy of a letter to Rees was missed at the London end, at the Inland Section, but was spotted by the Head Postmaster, Aberystwyth, in the letters for delivery when putting into that delivery another letter which we had intercepted and sent on to him. He rang me and I asked him to have it copied.

This is to explain the fact that although we are not operating the check normally at Aberystwyth this letter was copied there under instruction from me.

Yours sincerely,

*G.A. Harlow*  
G.A. Harlow.

*D.L. 18000*

R.T. Reed Esq.,  
D.L.A.

*D.A. 180  
2074*



G P O  
SS 281

*Posted 5.15 pm 18 April. New Malden.*  
*Private and Confidential to Principal Res. Panglais*  
Malden 0607

Prys,  
74, Blakes Lane,  
New Malden,  
Surrey.  
17.4.56.

Dear Principal,

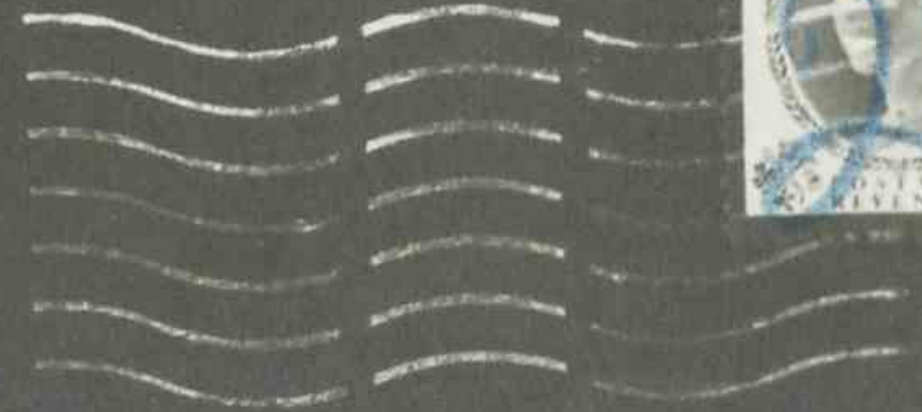
I do not remember whether or not I mentioned to you that I am going out to Israel as "Cohen Lecturer in Law" in a fortnight's time. Before I go by air to that troubled part of the world I should like to get the "joint statement" which I mentioned to you at Talyllyn agreed between us.

On further reflection, it would, I think, be much less bother to us both if you wrote (as, indeed, you suggested) to me in such terms as you thought appropriate, offering your resignation as from the end of the present session. Then I could reply acknowledging the receipt of your letter and indicating that, in all the circumstances, and having regard to the general interests of the College, I would recommend the Council at its next ordinary meeting to accept it.

I want to thank you cordially for the firm front you have shown to the newspaper correspondents. I have said as little as possible; but they have made a great deal out of it!

Yours sincerely,  
D. Hughes Parry.





Goronwy Rees Esq.,

Plas Penglais,

Aberystwyth, WALES.

3732

D

20 APR 1956



Telephone: COVENT GARDEN 0431  
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PAUL SCOTT.

19th April 1956

Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your card. The rest of The People money has just come in and is being dealt with today.

Howard Newby, now Chief Assistant of the Talks Department in the BBC, has been talking to me about the various ideas I put up to him for you. He tells me that he has discussed the matter with Miss Rowley and that they do not feel justified in commissioning a visit to the USA for talks on segregation because they are already receiving from Alistair Cooke and their Washington correspondent an illuminating supply of report and comment on this problem. He fears too that it isn't possible for them to sponsor a visit to India for the time being. They are hoping to devote a lot of broadcasting to Asian matters next year (he instances the hundredth anniversary of the Mutiny and the tenth anniversaries of the independence of India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma) and Newby tells me that he will keep your interest in mind, even although it is unlikely they would be able to sponsor a journey even then.

But they are in the market for any talks you care to propose. So perhaps you will let me have some ideas to pass to him - the briefest outlines will do.

I am communicating with Emyr Humphreys about the plays.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Jean Leroy*

LR/CL

Although every reasonable care is taken of MS, while in our possession we can accept no responsibility for any loss or damage thereto.

3732

D

*DA 10  
20/4*



~~SECRET~~ ~~PERSONAL~~Copy for PF.604,529 BURGESS

2100

PF.604,583/D1A/RTR

20 April, 1956.

Dear [redacted]

BURGESS's Employment by Sir Joseph BALL

You will have seen in the article in The People dated 25 March, 1956, the following statement about BURGESS:-

" While Guy BURGESS was an active Russian spy he was actually recruited into a British intelligence organisation. ....All the same, it is strange, to say the least, that a man who led so notorious a private life should have been given a highly confidential post.

For the organisation which took BURGESS under its wing consisted of a group of men, under Sir Joseph BALL, who supplied information destined for the private ear of no less a personage than Sir Horace Wilson, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's personal adviser."

The following week, on 1 April, 1956, the People published the following footnote to their article about BURGESS:-

"Sir Joseph BALL states, in connection with last week's article, that it was not his organisation in which Guy BURGESS held a confidential post.

We unreservedly accept Sir Joseph's assurance that he never met BURGESS and had never heard of him until he fled to Moscow."

I cannot trace any previous specific correspondence dealing with the position held by BURGESS in Sir Joseph BALL's organisation, nor am I really sure what this organisation amounted to, and I should be most grateful if, when convenient, we could have a note about this.

For your own information when I saw REES with Mr. Skardon on 15.4.56. he told me that he had received a letter from Sir Joseph BALL's solicitors about his allegations. REES did not tell me what action Sir Joseph's solicitors intended to take nor what he proposed to do about it. REES said that he thought Sir Joseph BALL was dead and I said I thought he was too. It appears that he is not.

Yours

*R.T.*  
R.T. Reed.

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 OCTOBER 20 20

/PMD

~~SECRET~~ ~~PERSONAL~~



SECRET PERSONAL

Jora

PF. 604,583/D1A/RIR

19 April, 1956.

Dear

Please refer to a letter written to Mr.  
Mitchell by on 5 April, 1956.

When I saw REES on 15 April, 1956, he told me that on about the 7 April (and he was very vague about the date) David Footman telephoned to the mother of Mrs. REES. He said that he was very concerned about the series of articles appearing in The People and wanted to write to REES about them. He said that he could not do so because he had heard that Geronwy was in Paris and asked for his address in Paris so that he could write to him.

Mrs. REES's mother told David Footman that the REES's were not in Paris but were both at home in Aberystwyth, and that if Footman wanted to do so he could write or telephone to them there. REES says he has heard nothing at all from or about David Footman since that time. REES could give no explanation why Footman was excited about the articles or why he did not follow up the suggestion made to him that he should get in touch with REES at Aberystwyth.

Yours

*R.T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.

/PMD

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3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022

SECRET PERSONAL

*20/1/56*  
*20/1/56*



PF. 604,583

207A

NOTE

Harlow of the G.P.O. telephoned at the end of last week to report that the head postmaster at Aberystwyth had told him that REES had a reputation in Aberystwyth as a person who drank to excess, and that he did not pay his debts promptly.

D. 1. A.  
16.4.56.

*R. T. Reed.*  
R. T. Reed.

JIA/6  
16/4



PF. 604,583

Copy: PF. 604,582 BLUNT

203A

NOTE

Mr. and Mrs. REES visited London yesterday afternoon and Mr. Skardon and I met them outside Leconfield House at 3.p.m. The object of their journey was to try to identify the shop described in the attachment to the letter from REES at serial 178b.

When we arrived at the junction of Whitechapel Road and Commercial Road Mrs. REES said that she remembered passing Aldgate East underground station but she did not remember the vista of Whitechapel Road as the place concerned. She was quite sure that there were no trees on the right-hand side of the road. We turned into Commercial Road and travelled slowly along it. After about three quarters of a mile we began to wonder if Mrs. REES would be able to remember her journey at all. We then came upon the junction of West India Dock Road and Commercial Road. As soon as we did so Mrs. REES said she was sure that this was the junction to which she had referred and within the space of fifty yards she recognised the shop on the left-hand side. It is a general outfitters, mostly for seamen, and has a crown and anchor painted on the wall next to the shop concerned. The name over the top is M. SENEFFT, and the address is No. 3 & 5, West India Dock Road. A general outfitters by the name of C. & A. Outfitters is at No. 9, but Mrs. REES was quite sure that BURGESS did not go to that address. She is also sure that BURGESS did not visit the only other shop in this group of houses which was No. 7 - a dyers and cleaners. Mrs. REES said that BURGESS had visited the shop expecting to find the door at the side open. He was surprised that it was not open but had with him an envelope which he put through the letter-box. He said that the man who kept the shop was a friend of his and that he often bought from the shop items of clothing such as singlets, dungarees, etc. Mrs. REES said, however, that she had the definite impression that the shop and/or the owner of it had some connection with BURGESS's espionage activities.

Across the other side of the road Mrs. REES recognised a Chinese restaurant that BURGESS had said he frequently visited with Anthony BLUNT. This is the restaurant DUN WAN LOW, 22 West India Dock Road.

I spent some time on the way to West India Dock Road and on our return discussing with REES the events immediately following the disappearance of MACLEAN and BURGESS in May, 1951. I asked REES if he could again try to reconstruct for me these events. I said, for example, that I could not be sure from his account if BLUNT had visited him at Sonning on the Monday immediately following the disappearance or if he had visited REES on the Monday preceding the day that he and BLUNT came to Leconfield House. REES said that he was sure now that BLUNT came on the Monday preceding the day of his visit to Leconfield House. REES spoke to FOOTMAN on Tuesday, 28 May, 1951. He fully expected that having said that he was sure that BURGESS had gone to Russia, he would be called to M.I.5. to be asked for an explanation. He became increasingly agitated during the week that he had not received such a summons, telephoned Captain Liddell on the Friday of that week, and spoke to David FOOTMAN again on Monday, 4 June. He then told FOOTMAN about the story of the attempt by BURGESS to recruit him for the Comintern. He had not mentioned this to FOOTMAN before. Mrs. REES then added that FOOTMAN had said that if REES was going to tell M.I.5. about BURGESS's Comintern activities he ought to get in touch with Anthony BLUNT to warn him of the intention. REES then spoke to BLUNT who came down to Sonning to try to dissuade him from telling his story. REES had not mentioned the Comintern story to anyone before because he said knowing the closeness of the association between BLUNT and our office both during the war and with people here after it, he naturally assumed that BLUNT would have told us about this. He was astonished that BLUNT denied that he knew of BURGESS's Comintern activities and even more astonished that we had not asked him to come to M.I.5. to hear why REES thought that BURGESS had gone to Russia. I told REES that our interpretation of his action and that of BLUNT was that the two of them had come to M.I.5. to tell us a story which they had worked out between them. REES said that when he was taken away by Mr. Skardon to make his statement he assumed that Mr. White and BLUNT had stayed behind in Mr. White's room to talk about REES and that the fact that BLUNT stayed behind confirmed this.

/BLT



- 2 -

BLUNT was "in our pocket".

I told REES that his articles in The People seemed to have caused a good deal of fluttering in a number of circles and that I had read in the Western Mail of reactions in Wales. REES said that the articles had caused him a very great deal of trouble and a lot of embarrassment but he did not give me any other information.

D.1.A.  
16.4.56.

*R. T. Reed.*  
R. T. Reed.



SECRET

204A

PF. 604,583/D. 1.A./RTR

SB/C/126

13 April, 1956.

Dear Sir,

Goronwy REES

203a

Thank you for your letter of 11 April, 1956.

I am most grateful for the information contained in this report and I shall be glad to hear if there are any further local developments concerning REES which you think may be of interest to us.

For your confidential information two Officers of the Security Service will have an interview with Mrs. REES and possibly Mr. REES while they are in London between 15 and 18 April. We have asked to see them again in order to clarify one or two items of information they have already given about the activities of Guy BURGESS.

Yours faithfully,

*St. R.*  
for Director General.

W.J. Jones, Esq.,  
Chief Constable,  
County Constabulary,  
Aberystwyth,  
Cardiganshire.

SECRET

DPA/B  
13.4.56



Cardiganshire



Constabulary

203A

TELEPHONE 316 (EXT. 3)

OUR REF. C.I.D. SB/C/126

YOUR REF

To: The Chief Constable.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

ABERYSTWYTH

11th April 1956

SECRET

ENCL 1 page

12 APR 1956

TO D.L.A.

REF PF 604 583

Sir,

X Goronwy REES - Principal of the University College  
of Wales, Aberystwyth.

On the 29th of March 1956 the "Daily Telegraph" disclosed that Principal Goronwy REES was the writer of serial articles in the "People" entitled "Guy Burgess Stripped Bare - His Closest Friend Speaks At Last."

I have obtained the following information concerning REES for your perusal:-

<u>Description</u>	Born 29.11.1909 at Aberystwyth, height 5' 9", medium build, sallow complexion, hair grey, married with five children.
<u>Education</u>	Alexandra Road Primary School, Aberystwyth, Ardwyn Grammar School, Aberystwyth, High School for Boys, Cardiff 1922-27, Open Scholarship History at New College, Oxford, 1st Class Honours Philosophy, Politics and Economics 1930, Jessie Theresa Rowden Scholar, New College, Oxford 1930, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford 1930, studied in the Universities of Berlin and Vienna.
<u>Career</u>	Fellow of All Souls College 1930, Foreign Leader Writer "Manchester Guardian" 1931, Research Fellow All Souls College, Oxford 1933, Assistant Editor of "Spectator" 1937.
<u>War Service</u>	Gunner, 90 Field Regt. R.A. 1939, commissioned Royal Welch Fusiliers 1940, instructor German Interrogation School 1941, G.S.O.2 (Intelligence) H.Q. South Eastern Command 1942, G.S.O.2 (Plans) 21 Army Group 1943, S.O.1 Political Division, C.C.G. of Germany 1945.
<u>Post War</u>	Industrial Administration Estates Bursar, All Souls College,

Forwarded for the information of The Secretary, Box 500, Parliament Street B.O.,  
 LONDON S.W.1.

*Chief Constable.*

17/16



**SECRET**

- 2 -

Oxford 1951, Principal of the University College of Wales 1953 to date, member of the Departmental Committee on Homosexuality and Prostitution.

Politics

During his period of residence at Aberystwyth he has not taken any active part in politics. There is no evidence of his association with Communism or other subversive elements.

Public Opinion

Following the disclosure that he was the author of the serial articles, the immediate re-action of the public of Aberystwyth and the County of Cardigan was one of complete surprise and utter disgust. He has been stamped as a Communist and unworthy of the post of Principal. He has not only injured his own prestige but also the status of the College. Such a remark as, "If I had a son I would not send him to Aberystwyth University, with a man like that in charge", is frequently used by the man in the street. It is felt that he wrote these articles for the purpose of making money to pay his debts. There is evidence of unpaid debts.

College Opinion

Members of the Staff and Court of Governors are rather reticent on the subject. The few that have expressed their views share the public disgust with the whole affair. Concern is shown as to the prestige of the College as a result of the publications. The articles have revealed in the Principal weakness of character and an undisciplined life.

Press Reference

Daily Telegraph 29th March 1956; Western Mail 31st March; Daily Mirror 9th April; Western Mail 10th April; Western Mail 11th April; Encounter, April issue.

I respectfully suggest that this report be forwarded for the information of Box 500, Parliament Street B.O., London, S.W.1.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

*L. Williams*  
Detective Inspector



Telephone Nos.

HEA 4267.

,, 4209.

**SECRET**

Your ref.:

Our ref.:



SPECIAL SECTION,  
INVESTIGATION BRANCH,  
HEADQUARTERS, G.P.O.,  
LONDON E.C.1.

12<sup>th</sup> April. 56.

Dear Sir,

One more instalment  
from *Abby's* story - Page 1,  
Col. 7.

Yours are,

ENCL *Envelope*  
*RF* 1-2 APR 1956  
 TO *DIA*  
 REF

Cut relevant section & PA in PF Res.



LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

April 11, 1956.

ESTABLISHED 1855

## BURGESS STORY

# Sir David: s College must not suffer

**A** UNIVERSITY COLLEGE principal and the president of the college's court of governors met at a country inn at Talylyn (Merionethshire) yesterday to discuss the implications of the fact that the principal had supplied intimate details of the life of Guy Burgess, the diplomat, for inclusion in a series in a Sunday newspaper.

The principal, Mr. Goronwy Rees, of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, said afterwards: "Beyond the fact that the president of the court of governors and I met at Talylyn I have absolutely nothing at all to say."

Sir David Hughes Parry, head of the School of Law at London University, and president of the Aberystwyth court of governors said: "The meeting, at a country inn, was a friendly one and there was no suggestion of the principal having been on the carpet."

Asked if he would make any further comment, Sir David said: "The only body to which I am responsible is the council of the college. I shall be making my report to them in due course."

"I hope that in the meantime the members of the council will refrain from making unnecessary public statements in a difficult situation and will have sufficient confidence in their president to trust him to do what is right for the future of the college."

I am quite confident that the college will not suffer in the long run. I am determined that it shall not do so."

## Tongues wagging

The court of governors, whose meetings are private, is not due to meet until June, but a special meeting can be called at any time on the request of not fewer than twelve members.

At present the college's 1,200 students are "down" but will be reassembling for the summer term next week.

At Aberystwyth tongues have been wagging freely for some time about the identity of the person supplying the facts for the articles, even before Mr. Goronwy Rees admitted being the unnamed man described as the "closest friend" of Burgess and said that he was supplying information for the series.

A leading Welsh national figure and prominent educationist commented: "The feeling about the whole thing in Aberystwyth and especially among the senior staff of the college is intense."

The articles have described orgies organised by Burgess and his friends, Burgess's association with Russia as a spy long before he left this country, and have referred to a number of well-known personalities who, it is claimed, are now in a position to be blackmailed into helping Russia with information.

## In hands of M.I.5

After Mr. Rees admitted his association with the articles in an interview with another newspaper, he said that he placed all the information which was now being published in the hands of M.I.5 immediately after the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean.

When I asked Sir David Hughes Parry what he thought of the articles, he said: "I assume they are now finished."

Asked if he thought they had served any useful purpose, he replied: "I am not looking at it from the point of view of M.I.5 or of national policy. I am only concerned with the future of the college. They have served no purpose from that point of view."

Other comments made by leading Aberystwyth personalities yesterday included one by Professor David Evans, a life governor of the college, who said: "I do not think it was a wise thing for him to do, but the matter to my mind is now sub judice."

## Not considered

Mr. Ivor Evans, a local lawyer and vice-president of the court of governors, said that he knew nothing of yesterday's meeting between the president and the principal, and added: "The matter has not been considered by any committee or anybody connected with the college."

Mr. Goronwy Rees was aged 43 when he was appointed principal of the college in June, 1953. He is a native of Aberystwyth and in the course of a brilliant academic career became a Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford.

After distinguished war service on Lord Montgomery's planning staff, he became Staff Officer, Political Division, Control Commission for Germany.

He returned to Oxford as Estates Bursar at All Souls College, the post he relinquished when appointed to Aberystwyth.



Telephone Nos.  
HEA 4267.  
" 4209.

**SECRET**

Your ref.:

Our ref.:



*PA PF Rees.*  
*201A*  
SPECIAL SECTION,  
INVESTIGATION BRANCH,  
HEADQUARTERS, G.P.O.,  
LONDON E.C.1.

11th. April 1956.

**12 APR 1956**

*M*  
Dear Reed,

Herewith press cuttings from  
Aberystwyth.

The Head Postmaster tells me  
that "volunteer information is that  
Rees and his wife drink heavily". To  
anyone knowing a little of the welsh people  
this probably means nothing.

Yours sincerely,

ENCLOSURE *2 page*  
*Encl.* 11 APR 1956  
TO *DIA*  
REF *P trace*

*G. A. Harlow.*  
G.A. Harlow.

R.T. Reed Esq.,  
D.I.A.

*15/18*

*DIA 12/4/56*



# 'SECRETS' MAN ON THE CARPET

9 April, 1956.

**T**HE principal of the University College of Wales is to be "carpeted" by the president of its court of governors.

Tongues have wagged in the university town of Aberystwyth since Principal Goronwy Rees admitted in a newspaper that:

He was the unnamed man described as the

## DAILY MIRROR REPORTER

"closest friend" of traitor Guy Burgess and the man who supplied information for a series of articles on the secret life of Burgess.

### Shocked

The people of Aberystwyth know fair-haired 46-year-old Mr. Rees and his attractive wife as "Mr. and Mrs. Principal".

Many were shocked by his admission.

A clergyman explained: "The people of this town regard the principal as the most important man in Wales.

"They feel he had no right to risk his own reputation and the dignity of his position at the college."

Professor David Evans, a life governor of the college, said: "There has been a great deal of talk

among the governors about the articles.

"I do not think it was a wise thing for him to do."

Another governor said: "I think he has acted deplorably — simply deplorably."

Mr. Rees left his elegant home in Aberystwyth last week to "get some peace."

### Gossip

Mrs. Margaret Rees, his wife, told me: "We expected some gossip if this ever leaked out, but Mr. Rees felt the truth had to be told about Guy."

"We came here two-and-a-half years ago. My husband has done a lot of good for the college.

"But it has been hard work for me helping him to maintain his position socially—and looked after our five children."

Principal Rees returned home after an urgent phone call from his wife with is holiday short.

### I'm ready

He said: "The president of the court of governors

has asked me to see him about the articles.

"I don't quite know what he'll ask me—but I'm ready to answer any questions."

"I appreciate that some of the governors and members of the college council are disturbed by the articles and might think it was a deplorable action.

"But I had my reasons for preparing them and am perfectly prepared to explain them if they wish it.

### 'Dangerous'

"I will not take any action whatsoever until I've seen Sir David Hughes Parry, the president.

"And I'm not going to retire, my contract here is an indefinite one."

Mr. Rees said he felt that Burgess should be exposed as a dangerous man... a man able to blackmail many people still in high positions in Great Britain.

Mr. Ivor Evans, a vice-president of the court of governors, said: "It is too early for anyone to say what action may or may not be taken against the principal."



# Western Mail

Tuesday, April 10, 1956.

AND SOUTH WALES NEWS. National Daily of Wales & Monmouthshire. A Kemsley Newspaper.

## BURGESS REVELATIONS

### Principal to see college president

WESTERN MAIL REPORTER

THE President of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Sir David Hughes Parry, is to meet the Principal of the College, Mr. Goronwy Rees, to-day "to talk things over" about a series of articles in a sensational Sunday paper.

The articles, based on information supplied by Mr. Rees, purported to reveal facts about the activities of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, the Foreign Office employees who fled to Moscow.

They alleged that in addition to being Communist agents the two were sexual perverts, and that a "Mr. X," a Cominform agent "holding a high position in British public life," was a "boon sex companion" of Burgess.

#### Night club incident

The last article described an ugly incident in a London night club in which Maclean, under the influence of drink, accused the author of "ratting from the Communists," the writer said.

The revelation in the "Western Mail" two weeks ago that Mr. Rees supplied the information for the articles caused a stir.

To-day's talks at a secret meeting place in North Wales stem from that revelation.

A spokesman for Sir David who is on holiday in North Wales, said last night that there was no question of his putting Principal Rees "on the carpet."

Principal Rees refused to comment on the meeting when I saw him last night.

He would not comment either on a newspaper report that he told reporters, "I am not going to resign."

A London newspaper quoted Principal Rees as saying he wrote the articles because "I felt Burgess should be exposed as the dangerous man he is — a man still able to blackmail many people in high positions in this country."

I understand that the matter will probably be raised at the June meeting of the College Council.

Mr. Ivor Evans, a vice-president of the College, told me last night, "It is too early to say what action, if any, will be taken in the matter."

A member of the council said, "I had hoped that all this would not come out until after the council meeting."

Mr. Rees was appointed principal of the college in June, 1953, at the age of 43. He is married, with two daughters and two sons.



200c

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

ECONOMY

OPEN carefully.

RE-USE with Economy Label.

Letter from Mrs. REES to Mr. Skardon

Dated 10.4.56.

11 APR 1956

CODE No. 27-22



PLAS PENGLAIS,  
ABERYSTWYTH.

TEL: 7083.

Tues.

Dear Mr. Skandon...  
I could be in London  
next Sunday, Monday, or  
Tuesday, as you wish.  
Sorry for the delay in replying  
but it's not easy to dispose  
of five kids in a hurry.  
I shall have my own  
car with me I could provide



around alone if it's easier  
for you, but it might be  
easier if you could provide  
a driver for me - I think  
Sunday might be a good  
day as the traffic is so  
much less - I gave Rees your  
message - He will be coming  
with me to London.  
Yours Margaret Rees.



PLAS PENGLAIS,

ABERYSTWYTH.

TEL: 7083.

PS If you can't reply  
before Friday. Could you  
phone me at Chand  
3187 ~~or~~ I am dining  
there on Friday to stay  
with my parents. If  
you leave a message



I will understand. I  
should arrive about 5 pm.



SECRET PERSONAL

## Part 1.

Section and Officer of origin F.4./MK Report No. 21,037 200b. 2  
 Action copy to D.1.A./RTR Information copy to ..... Typing Date 11.4.  
14/4

## REPORT

Geromway REES

1. With reference to the recent articles in the "People" which have now been disclosed as coming from the pen of REES, the following may be of interest.
2. After the disclosure of the author's identity, it is understood that Kingsley MARTIN of the "New Statesman" proposed to write a strong criticism of REES for having written the articles. MARTIN is stated to have written to REES to tell him this, and REES in turn asked if he might call to see Kingsley MARTIN to discuss the matter.
3. He did so and actually persuaded Kingsley MARTIN not to publish his original article as intended. It is stated that REES had a long argument with Kingsley MARTIN during which REES tried to defend his attitude, but he failed to convince Kingsley MARTIN that his motives were anything but mercenary.

MK/BMF

## Part II.

## COMMENTS BY SECTION OF ORIGIN

Source reliable.

## Part III.

## COMMENTS BY CONSUMER SECTION

(Value, interest, probability, extent to which confirmed by other sources, etc.)

*Many thanks & most interesting.  
 My other sources lead me to believe this to  
 be an accurate report. I should much appreciate  
 further reports from this source*

Dia  
13. 2.56

*St. Paul*



PA Rees

DIA (RIR)

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.Daily Express

Date.....11.4.56

**COLLEGE BOSS TALKS  
ABOUT BURGESS**

SIR DAVID HUGHES PARRY, president of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Principal Goronwy Rees met at a secret rendezvous yesterday to discuss Mr. Rees's long friendship with Guy Burgess, diplomat who vanished behind the Iron Curtain.

Mr. Rees, who is 46, supplied information for newspaper articles about Burgess and Maclean. He said he thought Burgess should be exposed "as the dangerous man he is. . . ."

Many of the 1,200 students at the college wrote to the governors, expressing concern that the principal had been on friendly terms with Burgess.

**'BE CALM'**

And yesterday Sir David, 6ft. tall with a shock of snow-white hair, interrupted a holiday in the country to talk with Mr. Rees.

Later, he said: "We discussed this matter over a quiet lunch as good colleagues should do. It was a very serious discussion and we are both determined that the college will not suffer in the end."

"So please ask everybody to remain calm and have trust in me. The matter will resolve itself."

Sir David—he is a professor at the London School of Economics—said he could not make any statement on whether Principal Rees was to resign or not.

DIA 12.4.56





Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth,  
N. Wales.

3207 D

11 APR 1956



AND AT  
22, BENTINCK STREET, W. 1  
42, KING STREET WEST, MANCHESTER  
14, SCOTCH STREET, WHITEHAVEN  
4, QUEEN'S SQUARE, NEWCASTLE  
116, HOPE STREET, GLASGOW  
19, CHURCH ST., LIVERPOOL, 1

ENC.  
**MESSRS. WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER**  
42, GRACECHURCH ST. LONDON, E. C. 3.

TELEPHONES:  
MANSION HOUSE 8733  
WELBECK 8301  
CABLES & TELEGRAMS:  
WILCHARCRO, LONDON  
CODE: A. B. C. 6TH EDITION

SIR WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER    VERNON S. WOOD    WALTER A. CROCKER    R. C. WHITING    R. O. REYNOLDS    T. J. CABLE    T. H. G. WOOD    G. J. REYBURN, LL. M.

M. GORONWY REES, ESQ., M.A.,  
PRINCIPAL,  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF WALES,  
ABERYSTWYTH,  
WALES.

29TH MARCH, 1956.

SIR,

OUR REF: WCC/J.84157. RE: "THE PEOPLE"

We enclose for your information copy of a letter which we addressed on 27th March to the "People" relating to an article containing serious libel upon our Client Sir Joseph Ball. Will you be good enough to inform us whether it is true as stated in today's "Daily Telegraph" that you were the author of that article.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER

✓ 3207

D



# The People

(PROPRIETORS: ODHAMS PRESS LTD.)

TELEPHONE:  
TEMPLE BAR 5400.

TELEGRAMS:  
"PEOPLE, LONDON"

IF REPLYING THE FOLLOWING  
REFERENCE MUST BE QUOTED:

EDITORIAL OFFICES,  
92, LONG ACRE,  
LONDON, W.C. 2.

10 April 1956

Dear Rees,

I see no reason for giving Crockers any help in whatever it is they are up to. So I think you should answer them on these lines:-

"I have passed your letter on to "The People", who inform me that they have no intention of disclosing the authorship of the article you mention."

For your information, I answered their letter to "The People" as follows:-

"While I cannot agree that what was published in "The People" on March 25 was defamatory of your client, I propose to print in tomorrow's issue the statements in your letter that Sir Joseph Ball did not know Guy Burgess and had nothing to do with his appointment."

And, as you know, we did publish a note to that effect.

Yours sincerely,

*NR Thomas*

Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.

23207 D

*23207 D*  
*12/4/56*

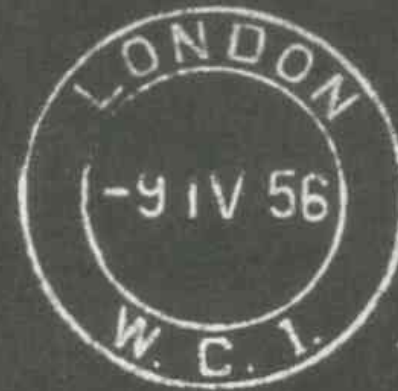


198a.

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ACT 1958.



CONFIDENTIAL



Goronwy Rees, Esq., M.A.,  
University College,  
Aberystwyth.

*ccs*  
*10.4*

*to me*

2

3104

F

10 APR 1956



# NEW STATESMAN AND NATION

10 GREAT TURNSTILE · LONDON · W.C.1

Telegrams : Newstat, Holb, London

Telephone : HOLborn 8471

9th April, 1956.

Dear Goronwy Rees,

In the "Daily Mirror" this morning I see that it is stated that you are being attacked in Aberystwyth, and are to see the President about the articles. This, I feel, puts our conversation on a slightly different plane. Do you think it will still be possible for you to write the article you suggested on your motives for contributing your recollections of Burgess to "The People"? If so, when? From my point of view, of course, - and I suggest from yours - the sooner the better. The advantage would be that in the N.S. & N. we would not be trying to make any kind of sensation in the matter or making a comment such as some other papers might make, and that we should give you proper space to say your say to the type of reader whom you would wish to address. I very much hope you can do this; I feel that otherwise I and everyone else will be forced to make comments based on snippets such as appeared in the "Daily Mirror" this morning, and I don't think that either they or the comments can possibly do justice to your case.

I very much enjoyed our talk.

Yours sincerely,

*Kingsley*  
Kingsley Martin,  
Editor.

Goronwy Rees, Esq., M.A.,  
University College,  
Aberystwyth.

THE STATESMAN & NATION PUBLISHING COMPANY LTD.  
Directors : Sir Gerald Barry, C. D. H. Cole, Gerald Gardiner, David Low, Kingsley Martin, Sir Leslie Plummer,  
V. S. Pritchett, John Roberts (Managing), Leonard Woolf.

2 3104 F

*D/SC*  
*10/4.*



PA PF Rees

DIA 2

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Daily Mirror

Date..... 9.4.56

D 9.4

SI to see

1966

# 'MY FRIEND BURGESS'

## DAILY MIRROR REPORTER

A UNIVERSITY principal is to be called before the president of his college's court of governors to explain his action in supplying information for a series of articles denouncing traitor Guy Burgess.

The principal is Mr. Goronwy Rees, forty-six-

## University head faces storm over articles

year-old head of the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth.

Mr. Rees himself revealed, in a local newspaper, that he was the unnamed source of the articles on Burgess. In the

articles he claimed to be the "closest friend" of Burgess, the Foreign Office man who fled to Russia with fellow diplomat Donald Maclean in 1951.

Mr. Rees claimed that he had known Burgess for

twenty-four years, that they were constantly visiting each other's homes, that they had the same friends and went to the same parties together.

The news that Mr. Rees was the man behind the

articles startled people in Aberystwyth.

A local clergyman explained: "Many people of this town regard the principal as the most important man in Wales.

"They feel he had no right to risk his own reputation and the dignity of his position at the college."

One of the college governors said: "I think he has acted deplorably—simply deplorably."

### 'Dangerous'

And Mr. Rees told me: "The president, Sir David Hughes Parry, has asked me to see him this week."

He said: "I felt that Burgess should be exposed as the dangerous man he is—a man still able to blackmail many people in high positions in this country."

And he added: "I am not going to resign."



SECRET.

195

PF.604583/D.G.

9th April, 1956.

I attach, for the information  
of yourself and the Home Secretary,  
a commentary on the subject matter  
of Mr. Desmond Donnelly's letter  
of 3rd April to the Home Secretary.

D. G. WHITE.

Sir Frank Newsam, KCB, KBE, CVO, MC,  
Home Office,  
WHITEHALL.

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SECRET.

95a(1)

Since 11th March 1956 "The People" has been publishing a series of articles on Guy BURGESS allegedly by his "closest friend". The fifth and last of these articles appeared on Sunday, 8th April. These articles are based upon a manuscript written by Morgan Goronwy REES, Principal of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Though the editorial staff of "The People" are selecting from, adding to and embellishing REES's original text in order to make the articles as sensational as possible, the texts have themselves been discussed by "The People" with REES who has on occasions made alterations and deletions before giving his approval for publication. REES must therefore be regarded for all practical purposes as the author.

2. These articles in fact contain little information which is new to the Security Service. The facts regarding REES's association with the Security Service after the flight from this country of BURGESS and MACLEAN are given below.

3. It will be recalled that BURGESS and MACLEAN fled on the night of Friday, 25th May 1951. REES has stated that HEWITT, BURGESS's homosexual companion, telephoned Mrs. REES on Saturday, 26th May 1951 and Sunday, 27th May 1951, expressing his alarm at the fact that BURGESS had not been back to the flat. On Monday, 28th May 1951 REES, as he says, telephoned [redacted] to report BURGESS's absence. He asked that this information should be passed on to the Security Service. On Tuesday, 29th May 1951, [redacted] telephoned to the then Deputy Director General, Captain Liddell, referring to BURGESS's mysterious disappearance. He added that on the previous Thursday or Friday BURGESS had telephoned to Mrs. REES when he had said among other things that he was not likely to see her for a long time. On Friday, 1st June 1951, Captain Liddell received a message from REES to the effect that BURGESS had telephoned Mrs. REES recently and that the conversation was "alarming" in the sense that BURGESS may have been hinting at an intention on his part to go to Russia. REES was asked to reconstruct the conversation. A letter from REES giving this reconstruction and dated 2nd June 1951 was [redacted] handed to Mr. White, as he then was, of the Security Service on Wednesday, 6th June 1951. In the afternoon of the same day REES and Professor Anthony Frederick BLUNT were seen by Mr. White.

4. After this interview REES made a voluntary statement in which he said that:-

- (a) BURGESS was an active communist in about 1932/33;
- (b) in 1937 BURGESS told him that he was collecting confidential political information for an anti-fascist organisation which he later said was a secret branch of the Comintern;
- (c) in 1937 BURGESS had asked REES to help him in his work for the Comintern; and
- (d) BURGESS had told REES that BLUNT was one of his sources of information.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 MARCH 2022



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SECRET.

5. BLUNT stated that he was aware that BURGESS was working for some sort of secret organisation but thought it was for British Intelligence.

6. On the morning of the publication of the first article in "The People", 11th March 1956, an appointment was made for REES to see two members of the Security Service in Aberystwyth. This interview took place on the evening of the same day. REES acknowledged that this article and the subsequent articles were based upon material supplied by him. He was asked whether he could amplify some of the more sensational claims made in the advance publicity about this series of articles. He said that in effect the articles would contain nothing which he had not previously told the Security Service in 1951. This was in fact largely true but two items were new to the Security Service. These were, first, that at some date about six months after BURGESS's approach to REES in 1937 and BURGESS's statement that BLUNT was also working for him, REES had asked BLUNT whether he knew "what BURGESS was up to". BLUNT's answer was a laconic "yes", from which REES inferred that BLUNT was aware of BURGESS's activities for the Comintern. Secondly, REES alleged that on Monday, 28th May 1951 (i.e., three days after the disappearance) he had telephoned to BLUNT who had visited him at his home at Sonning in the afternoon. REES told him that he intended to tell the Security Service that he knew BURGESS to have been a Comintern agent before the war and that he understood that BLUNT had helped him in this work. BLUNT stated, however, that this was far from the case and that he had assumed that BURGESS's secret activities had been for a British Intelligence organisation. He asked REES not to inform the Security authorities of his suspicions as to do so would be disloyal to BURGESS.

7. On 11th March 1956 REES handed to the two Security Service officers a copy of his original manuscript. He was later interviewed again on 21st March 1956, to clear up certain points arising out of these memoirs.

8. From the above it is clear and indeed was stated by REES at the interview in Aberystwyth that the X of the articles is Professor BLUNT. BLUNT is now Director of the Courtauld Institute and Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures. At present he is on a lecture tour in the United States.

9. BLUNT joined the Security Service on 1st June 1940 and continued to serve with it until 31st October 1945. In 1941 the Security Service used BURGESS to contact a source in this country who was providing information regarding Germany. The Security Service officer controlling this case was BLUNT, who was an old friend of BURGESS. After contact with the source had been established and the case was being exploited BURGESS was paid as from September 1941 £10 a month for his out-of-pocket expenses in travelling and entertaining the source. This arrangement continued until BURGESS's association with the Security Service ended on 31st December 1945.

10. BLUNT's security standing is equivocal. It is probable that he has never, on the various occasions on which he was interviewed, been entirely frank. He is himself a homosexual. His attitude and reactions have

/been ...



- 3 -

SECRET.

195a

been clouded by his own fears and reticences regarding his personal habits, so that it is extremely difficult to make a balanced assessment. It is intended that BLUNT should be interviewed again immediately after his return to this country.

11. The articles in "The People" make great play with BURGESS's wide acquaintance with people in high places in political circles. Government Departments, the Security Service [redacted] For example, one article states with truth that at the farewell party which BURGESS gave before he left for Washington in the summer of 1950 there were present among many others the late Mr. Hector McNeil and Captain Liddell. During and after the war, both because of his part-time covert role as a contact of the Security Service and his official employment first with [redacted] and later with the B.B.C. and the Foreign Office, BURGESS in fact became known to many members of Government Departments. including members of the Security Service [redacted]

April, 1956.

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Draft Letter/Minute to

Grading **SECRET**

Date 7.4.56.

Copies to

Our Ref. PF.604583

Their Ref.

For Signature by

Approved by

*March 1956*

Since 11 ~~3.56~~ "The People" has been publishing a series of articles on Guy BURGESS allegedly by his "closest friend". The fifth and ~~the~~ last of these articles appeared on Sunday, 8 ~~4.56~~ <sup>*April*</sup>. These articles are based upon a manuscript written by Morgan Goronwy REES, Principal of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Though the editorial staff of "The People" are selecting <sup>*from*</sup> adding <sup>*to*</sup> and embellishing REES's original text in order to make the articles as sensational as possible, the texts have themselves been discussed by "The People" with REES who has on occasions made alterations and deletions before giving his approval for publication. *REES must therefore be regarded for all practical purposes as the author.*

2. These articles in fact contain little information which <sup>*is*</sup> was new to the Security Service. The facts regarding REES's association with the Security Service after the flight from this country of BURGESS and MACLEAN are given below.

3. It will be recalled that BURGESS and MACLEAN fled on the night of Friday, 25 May 1951. REES has stated that

3. According to REES, HEWIT, BURGESS's homosexual <sup>*companion*</sup> ~~valet~~ and friend, telephoned Mrs. REES on Saturday, 26 ~~5.51~~ <sup>*May 1951*</sup> and Sunday, 27 ~~5.51~~ <sup>*May*</sup>, expressing his alarm at the fact that BURGESS had not been back to the flat. On Monday, 28 ~~5.51~~ <sup>*May*</sup>, REES, <sup>*as he says,*</sup> ~~stated he~~ telephoned [redacted] to report BURGESS's absence. He asked that this information should be passed on to the Security Service. On Tuesday, 29 ~~5.51~~ <sup>*May*</sup>,

Continue overleaf if necessary.

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Draft Letter/Minute to

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*been hinting at an  
intention on his part*

*de*  
[redacted] *then* telephoned to the *then* D.D.G., Captain Liddell, referring to BURGESS's mysterious disappearance. He added that on the previous Thursday or Friday BURGESS had telephoned to Mrs. REES when he had said among other things that he was not likely to see her for a long time. On Friday, *June* 1 ~~6~~ *51*, Captain Liddell ~~reported that he~~ received a message *to the effect* from REES *that* BURGESS had telephoned Mrs. REES recently and that the conversation was "alarming" in the sense that BURGESS may have intended to go to Russia. REES was asked to reconstruct the conversation. A letter from REES giving this reconstruction *and* *June 1951* dated 2 ~~6~~ *51* was [redacted] handed to Mr. White (as he then was) of the Security Service on Wednesday, *June* 6 ~~6~~ *51*. In the afternoon of the same day REES and Professor Anthony Frederick BLUNT were seen by Mr. White.

4. After this interview REES made a voluntary statement in which he said *that*:-

- 1) BURGESS was an active communist in about 1932/33;
- 2) in 1937 BURGESS told him that he was collecting confidential political information for an anti-fascist organisation which he later said was a secret branch of the Comintern;
- 3) in 1937 BURGESS had asked REES to help him in his work for the Comintern; *and*

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4) BURGESS had told REES that BLUNT was one of his sources of information.

5. BLUNT stated ~~at this time~~ that he was aware that BURGESS was working for some sort of secret organisation but thought it was for British Intelligence.

6. On the morning of the publication of the first article in "The People", <sup>March 1956,</sup> 11 ~~3.56~~, an appointment was made for REES to see two members of the Security Service, in Aberystwyth. This interview took place <sup>on</sup> the evening of the same day. <sup>REES</sup> ~~He~~ acknowledged that this article and the subsequent articles were based upon material supplied by him. He was asked whether he could ~~amplify~~ <sup>advance</sup> some of the more sensational claims made in the ~~the~~ publicity about this series of articles. He said that in effect the articles would contain nothing which he had not previously told the Security Service in 1951. This was in fact largely true but

two items were new to the Security Service. <sup>These were, first,</sup> ~~Firstly~~ that at some date about six months after BURGESS's approach to REES <sup>in 1937</sup> and BURGESS's statement that BLUNT was also working for him, REES had asked BLUNT whether he knew "what BURGESS was up to". BLUNT's answer was a laconic "yes", from which REES inferred that BLUNT was aware of BURGESS's activities for the Comintern. Secondly, REES alleged that on <sup>May 1951</sup> Monday, 28 ~~5.51~~ (i.e., three days after the

Continue overleaf if necessary.



Draft Letter/Minute to

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- 4 -

Date

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disappearance) he had telephoned to BLUNT <sup>who</sup> ~~and~~  
~~BLUNT~~ had visited him at <sup>his home at</sup> Sonning in the  
 afternoon. REES told him that he intended to  
 tell the Security Service that he knew BURGESS  
 to have been a Comintern agent before the war  
 and that he understood that BLUNT had helped  
 him in this work. BLUNT stated, however, that  
 this was far from the case and that he had  
 assumed that BURGESS's secret activities had  
 been for a British Intelligence organisation.  
 He asked REES not to inform the Security  
 Authorities of his suspicions as <sup>to do so</sup> ~~it~~ would be  
 disloyal to BURGESS.

On 11 March 1956

7. <sup>1</sup> REES handed to the two Security  
 Service officers a copy of his original  
 manuscript. ~~and~~ He was later interviewed again  
<sup>March 1956</sup>  
 on 21.3.56 to clear up certain points arising  
 out of these memoirs.
8. From the above it is clear and indeed  
 was stated by REES at the interview in ~~Aber~~  
 Aberystwyth that the X of the articles is  
 Professor BLUNT. BLUNT is now Director of the  
 Courtauld Institute and Surveyor of the  
 Queen's Pictures. At ~~the~~ present ~~moment~~ he is  
 on a lecture tour in the United States.
9. BLUNT joined the Security Service on  
<sup>June 1940</sup>  
 1.6.40 and continued to serve with it until  
<sup>October 1945.</sup>  
 31.10.45. In 1941 the Security Service used  
 BURGESS to contact a source in this country  
 who was providing information regarding Germany.

Continue overleaf if necessary.



Draft Letter/Minute to

Grading

- 5 -

Date

Copies to

Our Ref.

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Approved by

The Security Service officer controlling this case was BLUNT, who ~~of course~~ was an old friend of BURGESS. After contact with the source had been established and the case was being exploited BURGESS was paid as from September 1941 £10 a month for his out-of-pocket expenses in travelling and entertaining the source. This arrangement continued until BURGESS's association with the Security Service ended on 31.12.45. *December 1945.*

10. BLUNT's security standing is ~~to say~~ *It is probable that he* the least equivocal. *on* He has never, *occasions on which* during the various ~~times~~ *he* was interviewed, been entirely frank. He is himself a homosexual. ~~and the whole assessment of~~ His attitude and reactions *have been* ~~is~~ clouded by his own fears and reticences regarding his personal habits, so that it is extremely difficult to make a balanced assessment. It is intended that BLUNT should be interviewed again immediately after his return to this country.

11. The articles in "The People" make great play with ~~the fact that~~ BURGESS ~~had a~~ wide acquaintanceship with people in high places in political circles, Government Departments, the Security Service [redacted] *with him* farewell For example, one article states *which* that at the / party BURGESS *gave* before he left for Washington there were present among many others the late Mr. Hector McNeil and Captain Liddell. *Continue overleaf if necessary.*

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*in the summer of 1950*



Draft Letter/Minute to

Grading

- 6 -

Date

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Their Ref.

For Signature by

Approved by

*and after /*  
During ~~the course of~~ the war, both because of  
his part-time covert role as a contact of the  
Security Service and his official employment  
first with [redacted] and later <sup>with</sup> the  
B.B.C. and ~~the News Department of~~ the Foreign  
Office, BURGESS <sup>in fact</sup> became known to many members of  
Government Departments, including ~~of course~~  
members of the Security Service [redacted]

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1926

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ACT 1958



**CONFIDENTIAL**~~SECRET.~~~~D.~~DI  
DIA/RTR }

192a

cur  
9.4

PF. 604583/D.G.

6th April, 1956.

I am returning the papers I took away from you this morning concerning the Goronwy REES affair.

I have carefully considered the attached draft of a letter you propose to send to REES and I find nothing in it which should cause us the least embarrassment. I imagine that you wish to write the letter in this particular way rather than to start from the point that you know him to be the author of the articles in question. If, however, on reconsideration you saw an advantage in the latter approach, you could base yourself on an article published in the "Western Mail" on 31st March in which REES admitted that the articles were based on facts supplied by him. This is referred to in the last paragraph of my earlier letter to you on the subject.

**TO O. G. WHITE**

Sir Frank Newsam, KCB, KBE, CVO, MC,  
Home Office,  
WHITEHALL.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



Copy of draft letter from Sir Frank Newsam to Goronwy REES.

---

The attention of the H.S. has been called to an article by Peterborough in the Daily Telegraph of the 29th March in which it is alleged that you are the author of a series of articles published in The People which included statements to the effect that the writer of the articles was one of BURGESS' closest friends and was fully aware of BURGESS' sexual irregularities.

The H.S. would be glad if you would be good enough to inform him whether there is any foundation for the allegation made in Peterborough's article. The H.S. feels sure that you will realise what embarrassment would be caused if in fact you are responsible for the articles published by The People and you nevertheless signed a report which in due course the Dept. Cttee on Solicitation and Homosexuality will be submitting to him.



1916.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
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ACT 1958



PA PF Rees 19/1a

Home Office,  
Whitehall,  
S.W.1.

6th April, 1956.

Dear Sir,

The Home Secretary who is out of London at present has asked me to say that he has received your private and confidential letter of 3rd April, and to let you know that he is in communication with the appropriate authorities on the matter to which it relates.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) R. R. PITTAM.

Private Secretary

Desmond Donnelly, Esq., M.P.



COPY

House of Commons

E.R.

PRIVATE AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

3rd April, 1956.

Dear Gil,

I am writing to you about an astonishing series of articles that have been appearing in the People. These articles deal with the private life and communist conspiracies of Mr. Guy Burgess. In the week immediately before Easter, the Daily Telegraph Peterborough column stated that these articles are by Mr. Goronwy Rees, Principal of the University College of Wales.

Percy Cudlipp of the News Chronicle brought these articles to my attention and I have written to the Secretary of the Court of Governors stating that whilst I would be the last to try and instigate a witch hunt, for the good name of the University there must be a statement. I have asked my secretary to send you a copy of this letter to the University marked "Private and Confidential". However, regardless of who has written the articles the matter should be considered by the authorities. There are references, for instance to a character called "X". The articles state that Burgess "named one of this country's most celebrated academic figures as a fellow Comintern agent....He was one of Burgess's boon sex companions and he holds a high position in public life today". There are also accounts of M.I.5 people being visitors at Burgess's flat.

There is even a graphic description of the author of the articles and Burgess searching for the Kinsey Report in the Foreign Secretary's safe - if it wasn't serious, it would all be extremely funny.

/Naturally



Naturally I do not want you to reply telling me the results of the investigations. Nor would it be proper. I shall be perfectly satisfied to know that the matter is being considered by the relevant authorities - indeed, it may be under consideration already. Your office will be able to get the relevant press cuttings and as I write from Pembrokeshire, I cannot lay my hands on another set in addition to those that I have sent to the University.

With kind regards.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) Desmond Donnelly



*DIA for PA please*

PF. 604583

*190c*

Admiral Thomson called to see me this morning, when he handed me the current article for "The People" about MACLEAN and BURGESS, written by Goronwy REES. Mr. Reed, D.1.A, was with me. We read the article and agreed with Admiral Thomson that we could not take any objection thereto.

L.A.  
6.4.56.

*B.A. Hill*  
B.A. Hill.



COPY

6th April, 1956.

PRIVATE AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

Sir David Hughes Parry, M.A.,  
President,  
Court of Governors,  
University College of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a series of articles that have been appearing in "The People" regarding the private life and political intrigues of Mr. Guy Burgess; and to a note which appeared in the Peterborough column of the Daily Telegraph in the week before Easter.

I attach two of these articles. They are astonishing. I also attach the Daily Telegraph cutting which has been sent to me as well; this cutting states categorically that the articles are written by Mr. Goronwy Rees, Principal of the University College of Wales.

Whilst I would be the last person to try to instigate any McCarthyite witch hunt - I have just spent two months in the U.S.A. seeing its monstrous effect - the articles raise certain matters involving national security that must be investigated.

From the point of view of the University however, with whose good name we are all concerned - I also consider that there must be some statement. We cannot have such allegations made about the Principal if they are untrue. Equally, if the articles are written by Mr. Rees, then the University authorities must give the matter their attention.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) DESMOND DONNELLY.



CONFIDENTIAL

190b

PF.604,583/D✓

6 April 1956.

Dear

I enclose a proof of the last of "The People" articles, to be published next Sunday. We are advised that there is nothing here to which exception can be taken. As before, we have no assurance that the text will not be altered before publication.

I am sending a copy to [REDACTED]

Yours

G.R. Mitchell.

J.E.D. Street, Esq.,  
The Foreign Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRET

190

PF.604583/DG.

6th April 1956.

In your letter of 4 April you ask about Goronwy REES's association with BURGESS and his authorship of the articles in "The People".

REES was in fact one of BURGESS's closest friends. He first got to know him in or about 1932 when he (REES) was an undergraduate at Oxford and BURGESS was an undergraduate at Cambridge. The friendship continued up to the time of BURGESS's departure in May 1951. We have no evidence that it was of a homosexual nature. However, REES knew perfectly well throughout his friendship with BURGESS that the latter was a homosexual, but this knowledge seems to have had no effect on his affection and regard for him.

REES is in effect the author of the articles in "The People". The facts are that he has written a set of memoirs consisting of about 100 pages of typescript and narrating what he knew of BURGESS during the years 1932 to 1951. This manuscript is in the hands of "The People", who, by authorisation of REES, are free to use it as the basis for the series of articles now being published. In fact "The People" are treating the text with considerable freedom. They are selecting what they regard as the juiciest passages and are amending them, deleting from them and inserting bits of their own so as to make the articles as sensational as possible. However, having done this, they are regularly submitting a proof of each article to REES and getting from him, though sometimes with difficulty, authorisation before they publish. He cannot therefore escape responsibility as the author. Even before the Peterborough publicity, many of his friends had recognised him as the only man who could have written the articles.

I should let you know, in addition, that there may be further publicity in some form for REES' memoirs in the future. We have learned that, since publication of the series in "The People" began, REES has also been in negotiation with the "Daily Express". They too are in possession of a copy of the 100-page text. We do not know the terms of any contract REES may have with "The People", nor whether that paper is aware of his dealings with the "Daily Express".

All the information in paragraph 4 above, and all the information in paragraph 3 except the bare fact that REES is the author of the articles, is derived from secret sources. I do not suppose, however, that you would want to use it in any correspondence with Wolfenden or with REES. It is designed to give you the background.

On 31 March the "Western Mail" published an article consisting of a series of questions put to REES and answers given by him. In this REES admitted that "the articles were based on facts supplied by me".

I return Wolfenden's letter herewith.

D. G. WHITE.

Sir Frank Newsam, KCB, KBE, CVO, MC.,  
HOME OFFICE.

SECRET



**Draft Letter/Minute to**  
Sir Frank Newsam.

**Copies to**

**For Signature by** D.G.

**Grading** SECRET

**Date** 5.4.56.

**Our Ref.** PF.604,583.

**Their Ref.**

**Approved by** *SW 6/4*

Dear

In your letter of 4 April you ask about Goronwy REES's association with BURGESS and his authorship of the articles in "The People".

2. REES was in fact one of BURGESS's closest friends. He first got to know him in or about 1932 when he (REES) was an undergraduate at Oxford and BURGESS was an undergraduate at Cambridge. The friendship continued up to the time of BURGESS's departure in May 1951. We have no evidence that it was of a homosexual nature. However, REES knew perfectly well throughout his friendship with BURGESS that the latter was a homosexual, but this knowledge seems to have had no effect on his affection and regard for him.

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*Continue overleaf if necessary.*



Draft Letter/Minute to

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- 2 -

bits of their own so as to make the articles as sensational as possible. However, having done this, they are regularly submitting a proof of each article to REES and getting from him, though sometimes with difficulty, authorisation before they publish. He cannot therefore escape responsibility as the author. Even before the Peterborough publicity, many of his friends had recognised him as the only man who could have written the articles.

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*Continue overleaf if necessary.*



Draft Letter/Minute to

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Date

Copies to

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Their Ref.

For Signature by

Approved by

- 3 -

6. On 31 March the "Western Mail" published an article consisting of a series of questions put to REES and answers given by him. In this REES admitted that "the articles were based on facts supplied by me".

7. I return Wolfenden's letter herewith.

Yours





Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.

5 APR 1956

4	2866	D
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## *Telegrams*

BOOKSTORE, LESQUARE  
LONDON

## *Telephone*

TEMPLE BAR  
0127/9

PC/RG

April 4th, 1956.

Dear Mr. Rees,

I am afraid that we have had yet another enquiry from Gallimard about the option that they gave us on ~~the~~ Montherlant's PORT-ROYAL. Can I take it that you do not want us to go any further with this?

I must give Gallimard an answer, and unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will say that we have decided to drop the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Calvocoressi.

Goronwy Rees Esq.,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.

4

2866

D

26/4/56





187<sup>a</sup>  
Home Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

4th April, 1956.

5 APR 1956

*My dear Dick,*

I enclose a letter which I have just received from Wolfenden, who is Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution. The situation which has arisen from the publication of the articles in "The People" is obviously awkward, and I shall be grateful if you can let me know definitely whether Rees was closely associated with Burgess and whether he is the author of these articles. If so, we may have to consider whether he should be asked to resign.

Will you please return Wolfenden's letter with your reply.

*yours sincerely*

*Frank Newsam*

Sir Dick White, K.B.E.

D/JC  
5/4/56



COPYPersonal and Confidential.

From

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
THE UNIVERSITY,  
READING.

29.3.56.

My dear Newsam,

Holidaying for the week-end in the depths of South Wales, I have just seen in to-day's 'Daily Telegraph' Peterborough's references to Goronwy Rees. He is a member of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution. If Peterborough is right in identifying him with the anonymous writer of articles about Burgess in the 'People', and if Rees is advertising himself as Burgess' "closest friend", I think this makes considerable awkwardness for the Committee. It is pretty tricky in any case, that one of the members of the Committee should now be revealed as having this particular connection with somebody who is widely thought of as a notorious homosexual. But, further, if it turns out - as it well may - that the Committee recommends some 'liberalisation' of the law about adult consenting male homosexuals in private, we really shall be in rather a mess. Such a recommendation would obviously be criticised in many quarters - and the Committee, if it did so recommend, would be ready for that. But in the light of this new complication about Rees, that recommendation, signed by him, would be discredited from the start. I can almost hear the comment "What is to be expected, from Burgess' closest friend?". And I think that is going to be very hard on the Committee as a whole and on fellow-signatories of such a recommendation in particular. I have also a nasty feeling that it won't be long before the Daily Telegraph, or some other enterprising periodical, or some tiresome M.P., asks why a chap with this history was put on the Committee at all.

It may be that I am flapping unnecessarily; and, of course, I know no more about this than I have read in the Daily Telegraph. But to me it does look more than a little awkward; and I wanted to get this word in to you without delay. I must add that I should not expect that Rees would be likely to resign from the Committee of his own accord.

Forgive me for bothering you with this; but I should be most grateful for your counsel. I shall be at the King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston, Glamorgan, until mid-day on Tuesday next, the 3rd, and back in Reading thereafter.

With renewed apologies and all kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

J.F. Wolfenden. (signed)



Note for PF.604,583.

185a

Harlow of the G.P.O. telephoned this morning to report that the Head Postmaster at Aberystwyth had sent him a cutting from the "Western Mail" in which Goronwy REES answers a series of questions put to him by a reporter. Harlow said that the Postmaster had said that it might be unwise to continue to try to intercept correspondence from Moscow to Goronwy REES as although the only two people in the operation were the Head Postmaster and his Assistant, he could not guarantee that the operation could continue to be kept secret in view of the considerable publicity that REES had received. 184a

I asked Harlow urgently to send me the article concerned and to instruct the Head Postmaster at Aberystwyth to discontinue trying to intercept mail for REES at the local Post Office.

Harlow and I agreed that we should probably not lose very much mail and that technically we ought still to get any letters to REES from Russia through the operation of the H.O.W. on the Watch List at the H.Q. of the G.P.O. in London and through the interception of mail from London and the Home Counties and from the Oxford area.

It is clear from the press cutting that the article was published as a result of REES answering a series of questions put to him by Tom Lloyd of the Western Mail (see extract from telephone check at 183a).

D.1.A.  
4.4.56.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.



Teles.:-  
HEA 4267.  
" 4209.



**SECRET**

INVESTIGATION BRANCH,  
HEADQUARTERS, G.P.O.,  
LONDON . . . E.C.1.

ref.:

Our ref.:

*4 April 56.*

*Donated - #14*

*Herewith - as  
promised.*

*Yrs. sincerely*

*G. Harlow*

*1 page*

*DE - 4 APR 1956*

*P.L.A.*

*REF*



28 52629

# Western Mail

156. AND SOUTH WALES NEWS. National Daily of Wales & Monmouthshire. A Kemsley Newspaper.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1956.

184<sup>a</sup>

## BURGESS ARTICLES

### Aberystwyth head says he knows 'Mr. X'

WESTERN MAIL  
REPORTER

THE Principal of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Mr. Goronwy Rees, last night admitted that a series of articles on Burgess and Maclean now running in a Sunday newspaper were based on facts supplied by him.

One of the revelation made in the articles was that the author knew a character named "Mr. X" a Comintern agent.

"Mr. X" was stated to be one of Burgess's boon sex companions and "holds a high position in public life."

Last night, I interviewed Principal Goronwy Rees and the following are the questions I put to him, with his replies:

Do you admit that you are the author of the series of articles on Guy Burgess in "The People"?—The articles were based on facts supplied by me.

## M.I.5 interview

Have you been interviewed by any of the security people?—I have been interviewed by M.I.5.

With the information you have apparently at your disposal do you not consider it is your duty to report the



MR. GORONWY REES.

defects of "Mr. X" to the appropriate Ministry under the new rules recently introduced by the Government for greater security against Communism?—All the facts contained in the articles concerned were reported to M.I.5 immediately after Burgess disappeared.

## Lack of judgment

Under these rules, there is a duty on Departments to inform themselves of serious failings such as homosexuality or loose living?—The case of Burgess and Maclean could have been prevented if people had exercised ordinary good judgment and common sense. I do not believe that the new security rules will make up for the lack of these qualities.

Mr. Rees was appointed principal of the college in June, 1953, at the age of 43. He is a native of Aberystwyth and in the course of a brilliant academic career became a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford.

## Leader writer

He served on the editorial staff of the "Manchester Guardian" as a foreign leader writer, and after distinguished service in World War II became Staff Officer, Political Division, Control Commission for Germany.

He subsequently returned to Oxford as estates bursar at All Souls, the post he relinquished to take over the principalship at Aberystwyth.

He is married and has four children, two daughters and two sons.

Submitted by  
Aberystwyth  
4/4/56

D/SC  
4/4/56



**SECRET**183<sup>00</sup>

NAME: REES

T.C. No.: 3003

Tel. No.: Aberystwyth 7083

Date: 30.3.56

part 3.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Incoming call from TOM LLOYD to REES.

LLOYD asked if he would answer some questions in view of the fact that he had made statements to another paper. REES replied that he had simply nothing more to say at the moment. LLOYD, however, proceeded to read some questions and REES replied to them but he added that they were not for publication - he had really nothing more to say and he wished to finish the conversation. LLOYD insisted on reading on the questions which had been put to him by his office who felt that in view of the fact that REES held an important position in Wales he should give a statement to a Welsh paper. LLOYD read the questions as follows-

1. Do you admit that you are the author of the series of articles on GUY BURGESS appearing in the People.
2. Have you been interviewed by any of the security people?
3. With the information you have apparently at your disposal do you not consider it is your duty to report the defects of Mr. X to the appropriate ministry under the rules recently introduced by the Government for greater security against communism.
4. Under those rules there is a duty on departments to inform themselves of serious failings such as homosexuality or loose living.

REES replied to the questions as follows-

1. The articles were based on facts supplied by me.
2. I have been interviewed by M.I.5.
3. All the facts, repeat all, contained in the articles concerned were reported to M.I.5. immediately after BURGESS disappeared.
4. The case of BURGESS and MACLEAN could have been prevented if people had exercised ordinary good judgment and common sense. I do not believe that the new security rules will make up for the lack of these qualities.

REES did not wish to add to this. He begged LLOYD to say nothing more than this and to print it in the shape of questions and answers. He asked if it was for the Western Mail. LLOYD said yes - he worked for no other paper. LLOYD thanked him and told REES that he appreciated it. REES said that all this was getting him into terrible trouble.  
21.21

L.E.

D/SC  
4/4/56



182<sup>m</sup>Note for PF.604,583.

Nigel Clive rang me up at my home on 3 April to say that REES had taken his family for a holiday to Paris. He thought that he had done so in order to escape the disagreeable reactions of his friends to the series of articles in "The People".

G.R. Mitchell.

D.  
4.4.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

Note.

REES did not in the end go to Paris, though he had made plans to do so. Instead he stayed with a friend at Marlow. See minute 186.

Clive got his information from FOOTMAN.

*ms*  
1.4

D/5C  
4/4



The People

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date... 1.4.56

DIA  
PA Rees  
1822**BURGESS**  
**stripped bare**

Before Guy Burgess left for America he threw a party for his highly placed friends that finished up as a drunken brawl. That is just one of the startling disclosures made today about the spy who fled to Russia, by his closest friend, a distinguished figure in the academic world.

**JUST** when Guy Burgess was performing his wildest antics as public brawler and alcoholic, the Foreign Office chose to give him the most confidential task of his entire diplomatic career.

When I tell you how it came about, you will surely ask me, as I do, what sort of supervision the Foreign Office exercises over its highly exclusive staff.

For I am quite certain his superiors knew all about his misdeeds.

Indeed, there was only one fact about his affairs that did not come to their knowledge—until too late—that he was a key Soviet spy in Britain.

I was Guy's closest friend, but even I kept wondering how the Foreign Office could possibly employ anyone who behaved as he did.

There was, for example, the remarkable scene at a

West End club called "Le Boeuf Sur le Toit."

Guy was there one evening drinking with a Foreign Office colleague. There was an argument.

The argument ended by Guy's colleague pushing him down the staircase.

Guy landed at the bottom—on his head. In fact, he got severe concussion.

The effects were alarming. He began to suffer from severe headaches. He became more and more addicted to drugs of all sorts.

These, combined with alcohol, made him pretty well insensible for considerable periods. When he was not silent or morose, his speech was rambling and incoherent.

The Foreign Office could hardly help learning of Guy's behaviour. But it had no effect on his career.

Nor did it turn his friends against him. Guy had a compelling charm that made all of us forgive his excesses.

Yet there was one thing about

**HIS FAREWELL  
PARTY ENDED IN  
A BOTTLE FIGHT****MCNEIL LEFT  
BEFORE THE  
TROUBLE  
STARTED**

*This is one corner of the frantically disordered flat in which Guy Burgess gave a party. The late Hector McNeil, Minister of State, was there. He left before the trouble started.*

him that still gave me an occasional qualm—the memory of his strange confession before the war that he was an agent of the Communist International.

Since he had worked, from the beginning of the war almost to its end, as a trusted member of one or other British intelligence organisation, I had every reason to believe that he had long ago abandoned his work for the Comintern.

**A record**

But I wondered how he had made the break with that ruthless organisation. One day I asked him just that. He refused to reply.

His silence irritated me. So I tried to provoke him into coming out with the truth.

"I have kept a complete record of what you said about being a Comintern agent," I said. "For my own protection I have deposited a statement with my lawyer."

His reaction startled me. He became violently agitated.

"Why have you done it?" he cried. "Please destroy the statement. Don't you know that

if it ever came to light my career would be ruined?"

I had difficulty in calming him down. I assured him that there was no statement. His fear finally left him.

But the incident made me uneasy. I was now sure that he had been a Communist agent. The only question that remained was—had he ceased to be one?

Guy was at this time Personal Secretary to the Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeil. And he remained in that position until Mr. McNeil became Secretary of State for Scotland in 1949.

Mr. Kenneth Younger replaced Mr. McNeil as Minister of State. And Mr. Younger, not surprisingly, did not take over his predecessor's secretary.

The Foreign Office had more confidence in Guy than Mr. Younger evidently had. They just transferred him to the Far Eastern department, where, in an amazingly short space of time, he was entrusted with a very special assignment.

**Grand review**

In China, the Communists had just won power after their long struggle against Chiang Kai-shek. The heads of the Foreign Office realised that there must be a grand review of their entire Far Eastern policy.

So they summoned from the Far East leading British representatives in the area. At Pembroke College, Oxford, a secret week-end conference was arranged to discuss the fateful developments in China.

A select group of experts was chosen to brief the assembled V.I.P.s on political strategy in the Far East arena.

Some of the experts were diplomats, some were University professors and some were men with a close acquaintance with events on the spot.

And one, believe it or not, was Guy Burgess! So an undercover Russian spy delivered a complete lecture on Red China to this top level and highly secret conference of Britain's foreign representatives.



the streets got drunk. Then some of the other guests began to get rather tipsy, too.

A couple of people got involved in a sudden, drunken clash of opinion. Before I knew what was happening, a violent argument had broken out.

Then one of the toughs lifted a wine bottle and hit one of his fellow guests on the head with it.

After a time, some sort of order was restored. I then noticed that the second of the toughs had vanished.

Later I learned that he had sneaked away to the house of one of the other guests, a distinguished writer—and stolen some of his property!

A few days after the party, Guy left for Washington. I had several letters from him. From these and from mutual friends I learned that he was not very happy there.

From all accounts, his conduct in America was as wild as it was at home.

**In disgrace**

He was living with Kim Philby, who was second secretary at the Embassy, a post he had been given after a highly distinguished career in the Intelligence Service.

My heart bled for Guy's host, and even more for his host's wife.

Within a year, my worst forebodings about Guy were realised. He had misbehaved so badly that he was in disgrace at the Embassy.

The Ambassador sent him home. I met him shortly after his return in May, 1951—only a few weeks before he fled to Moscow with Donald Maclean.

In spite of his troubles, Guy was full of triumph.

"I must show you this," he said. And from his briefcase he proudly produced a personal letter from Anthony Eden, then Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Eden, as he then was, had just visited Washington. Guy, of all people, had been chosen to pilot him round!

And the letter Guy showed me expressed Mr. Eden's warm thanks for the extremely interesting tour of Washington on which Guy had taken him.

Guy then drew another paper from his briefcase. It was a document that was to have fateful consequences. For it led, a short time later, to Guy's flight across the Iron Curtain.

**NEXT WEEK.**—Enter Donald Maclean. A mysterious phone call—then Burgess disappears.

**Tapped 'phone**

There was a young man who, some time before, had tapped a telephone when Guy wanted to hear his secret conversations of a foreign politician.

There were three distinguished members of M.I.6, the War Office intelligence branch, and M.I.5, its counter-espionage organisation.

Guy Liddell, for



P.A. ~~Step~~ Rees PF.

Reference.....

*W*  
~~DIA/RTR~~

To see v h.a.

~~D.~~*4.4*

1813

Please see the note of my dealings with Admiral Thomson today on the current "PEOPLE"'s article. I did not like it but Admiral Thomson assured me that as it was written now we could not object from a point of view D Notice No.1 as it did not show that Guy Liddell had been employed in M.I.5.

L.A.  
29.3.56

B.A. Hill.  
B.A. Hill. /

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NOTE

Admiral Thomson brought me the current "PEOPLE"'s article which I read through with him. I said I objected to the mention of Guy Liddell's name in the context in which it appeared, namely that he was connected with M.I.5 [REDACTED]. I also objected to Philby being described as having had a distinguished career with M.I.5. Admiral Thomson said he would see what he could do to get Guy Liddell's name deleted. He later rang me back and said the best he could do was to get inserted against the name 'also' so that the paragraph read: "there was also present Guy Liddell now head of Britain's Atomic Energy Authority". As the article is now written therefore there is no connection between Guy Liddell and M.I.5 or M.I.6. Admiral Thomson advised me that such being the case we could not object. I said I did not like it but must accept his advice.

The "PEOPLE" accept the deletion of Kim Philby as being employed by M.I.5 and this will now read as "a distinguished career in Intelligence".

L.A.  
29.3.56

B.A. Hill.



181<sup>a</sup>

✓ PF. 604583/D.

29 March, 1956.

**SECRET**

Dear

As arranged by telephone this afternoon I enclose a copy of the draft for next Sunday's article in "The People". I mentioned that we were hoping to raise effective objection<sup>x</sup> to references to Captain Liddell and Kim PHILBY.

As before, we have no assurance at this stage that, quite apart from any protests we may make, the article on Sunday will be identical with the proof enclosed with this.

Yours

G.R. Mitchell.

<sup>x</sup> It has been effective only in part. We have managed to get deleted only the references to the J.E.D. Street, Esq., posts they held in 1950. The Foreign Office. Their names remain in with a photograph of Captain L.

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~~DI~~ to see

PA PF Rees.

~~DIA.~~FROM THE PRESS SECTION.Daily Telegraph

Date..... 29.3.58

180a

Seen by D.**LONDON DAY BY DAY**

**P**RINCIPALS of universities seldom write serial articles in the sensational Press. More seldom do they write them anonymously.

Yet in the latter role I now detect Mr. Goronwy Rees, Principal of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, as author of a strange series in the People entitled "Guy Burgess stripped bare—his closest friend speaks at last."

Mr. Rees has gradually identified himself—Fellow of "one of the most famous Oxford colleges" in 1932, journalist on the Spectator a little later, major on the planning staff of Montgomery's 21st Army Group.

The series is not at all the scholarly analysis one would expect from a Principal. For the most part it consists of gossip jottings bringing in the names of well-known people or describing them sufficiently for easy identification by their acquaintances.

Mr. Rees is careful to acquit them of knowledge of Burgess's activities. But a little mud always sticks.

**Character Named "X"**

There is the revelation, typical of this kind of journalism, about a character named "X" who is, or was, a Comintern agent.

"He was one of Burgess's boon sex companions. And he holds a high position in public life to-day." In that case is it not Mr. Rees' duty to report him?

It is difficult to imagine why Mr. Rees should be taking up his pen after so long a silence. The only bright spot is the solemn telling of a story against himself.

"I was interested" in the Kinsey Report, he says, and asked Burgess to lend him his copy. This Burgess kept in the Foreign Secretary's safe, whence Burgess, after rummaging, produced it.

The flaw in the story — perhaps symptomatic of a good deal else — is that the Foreign Secretary does not have a safe.

JSC  
3/4/58



**ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE**

ECONOMY

OPEN carefully.

RE-USE with Economy Label.

Letter from REES to  
Mr. Skardon.

178<sup>B</sup>

CODE No. 27-22

D/SC  
5/4/52



PLAS PENGLAIS,  
ABERYSTWYTH.

TEL. 7083.

26. iii. 56.

Dear Mr Stauden

Since our last meeting I have thought about some of the questions you asked me, and also jogged my wife's memory, which is in some ways better than mine. In particular, you asked me whether I could suggest anything about the way Guy made his contact (if any) in the East End.

There is a seaman's and fisher in the East End, where Guy used to buy various articles of clothing. He once drove myself and my wife there on a Sunday morning, when he called; it was short and my wife's recollection is that he left a message. I have no idea of the name but my wife has drawn the enclosed sketch; her kink of locality is normally very good. I have no idea at all whether there is anything in this, but perhaps there might be.

I have also recalled another name which may or may not have some significance. It is that of Norman Dulzer [LUKER] who was employed in New York as BBC representative while Guy was in Washington, and of whom Guy saw a great deal while he was in America. After Guy's disappearance he left the B.B.C., and I think he is now employed at UNO in New York. Again I don't know whether or not he is of any significance, but he was one of the persons about whom Guy suddenly developed a tremendous enthusiasm, on grounds which I could never quite explain to myself.

This is all for the moment. If anything else comes back to me I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,  
Gordon Rees.

P.S. There is one other matter, which has long puzzled us, but may be quite clear to you. Soon after Guy's disappearance, David Footman announced his intention of marrying a girl, and asked to bring her down to stay. They came to stay with us and we also met her in London with David. Soon after we first met her David told us he had found her a job as a secretary in M.I.5 and it appeared that part of her work was looking after the file on



Guy. She took a flat in the same block as David in Bunter Street and for a time they seemed to use each other's flats interchangeably. This continued for about two months, after which she disappeared from our lives & we have never seen or heard of her again. We can't remember her name, but she was said to be the daughter of a retired Anglo-Indian soldier, had a daughter of 12 (?), was married, and could not get a divorce because her husband worked in India and it was impossible to serve papers on him.



Reference PF. 604,583

Goronwy REES

Mr. Skardon and I interviewed Goronwy REES in a room at the Great Western Hotel at Paddington from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. on 21 March. Before we began our discussion Mr. Skardon delivered a short talk to REES in the nature of a warning. REES was told that we wanted to have a full and frank discussion with him about his book and about certain aspects of the disappearance. It was essential, however, that REES should realise that the talk was in confidence and that if in the course of it he were to obtain any information from us that was new to him it should not be repeated to any outsider and that any information REES gave to us would be treated in confidence. What we had to say could technically come under the Official Secrets Acts.

We had asked to see REES again because, now that we had read his book, there were a number of questions outstanding, and it was of the utmost importance to our Service and to try to clarify the position of certain people who had been members of those organisations. REES should realise that there was no question of our protecting any former members of those organisations if they had been engaged in espionage or if their security record was such that they ought to be removed from the positions some of them might now occupy. REES replied that he understood the position and agreed to talk to us on those terms.

I then told REES that so far as his own case was concerned he would appreciate that the Security Service had found difficulty in assessing his position in the BURGESS circle of friends and acquaintances. I intended to explain the general background of the security investigations of MACLEAN and he would understand why we had had this difficulty. I told REES that, as the White Paper indicated, we had kept observation upon MACLEAN for about a month before he disappeared and that during this time we had seen MACLEAN in touch with a large number of people each of whom we had found it necessary to identify. After identification we had tried to determine if any of the persons we had seen were likely to be the ones who might have conveyed information from MACLEAN to the Russian Intelligence Service. The object of our investigation (as set out in the White Paper) had been to obtain information about MACLEAN which would provide evidence for a prosecution or help us in interrogating MACLEAN when we decided to do so. In the course of our observation upon MACLEAN we had seen him in touch with BURGESS and when the frequency of their meetings increased before the disappearance we had assessed the significance of BURGESS's agitation - which was in no way transmitted to MACLEAN - as worry about BURGESS's own position at the Foreign Office. Although we had been wrong in this assessment it was a mistake which was understandable in the light of what was then known about BURGESS. The White Paper and Mr. Macmillan had said correctly that at this time there was no information on record within the Security Service to show that BURGESS had ever been connected with espionage or that he was a Communist. The only information on record was that concerning the indiscretions for which he was responsible in Tangier.

REES's account of the events following the 25 May - the day of the disappearance - did not fit our records of it. REES claimed to have come to the Security Service within 48 hours of his return to his home at Sonning and that he had seen BLUNT in the intervening period. In fact REES had not given to us the information about BURGESS's Comintern work until 10 days after the disappearance. That was a very considerable discrepancy and I asked REES for his explanation of it. REES replied that the explanation lay with his memory. Due to the passage of time he had firmly imagined that the events that took place had occurred within 48 hours.. I told REES that FOOTMAN had telephoned to Guy Liddell on Tuesday, 29 May, to relay to us the news that BURGESS seemed to have disappeared and that Margy REES had

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Reference 177a

- 2 -

received a telephone message the previous Friday which seemed to be "alarming". BLUNT and HARRIS had visited the Security Service on the morning of Wednesday, 30 May, to report the disappearance of BURGESS and they had been told under a vow of secrecy that BURGESS was then known to have disappeared with MACLEAN. We had a record that REES had got into touch with Captain Liddell on Friday, 1st June, and that the letter which he had written to reconstruct the extraordinary telephone conversation was dated 2 June and had been delivered to Mr. White by David FOOTMAN on Wednesday, 6 June, the day that REES and BLUNT came to the Security Service together.

I asked REES if he could try again to date the day upon which he rang up David FOOTMAN and BLUNT and the day that BLUNT visited him at Sonning. After some reflection REES replied that he was sure that he rang up FOOTMAN on Monday morning, 28 May, that he did this first, and followed it by telephoning BLUNT. He also felt sure that BLUNT came to visit him on the afternoon of that day. REES said that he had expected that after FOOTMAN had conveyed the information he had about BURGESS to the Security Service he would have been asked to come and make a report about it and he could not understand why he was not asked to come to see us. I said that I supposed that his concern about not being asked to come accounted for his telephone call to Captain Liddell on Friday, 1 June. REES replied that he presumed that it was so but that he did not really remember making the call. I said to REES that he would see that far from having told the Security authorities about BURGESS's Comintern work immediately after the disappearance he had in fact delayed ten days before doing so.

I then told REES that I had certain questions to ask him arising out of the book and that I would like to check with him the people he had mentioned in the book by letters and symbols and to which we had put speculative identities. I said that I did not think that REES would mind identifying the characters but if he preferred some to remain anonymous I would not press him for their names.

First I wanted to ask if he could date the conversation when BURGESS put to REES the proposal that they would work together for the Comintern. REES said that he could not say exactly when this took place but that he remembered that the book he had been reviewing was about unemployment in South Wales and that he could easily find out for us when this book was published and when he reviewed it in the Spectator. I offered to carry out this research myself but REES said he could do it perfectly easily and that he would send a letter to Mr. Skardon at Room 055 giving us the date. Although we could not, at the moment, establish that date I asked REES if he could try to determine the date of his conversation with BLUNT in St. James's Park and give us some further information about it. REES replied that to the best of his recollection the conversation with BLUNT took place within six months of his conversation with BURGESS. He could not date it more exactly. I said it was surprising that only the single word "yes" was uttered by BLUNT. REES agreed but said that BLUNT positively said no more than that single word. I asked REES whether he believed that BLUNT really thought that REES's intention was to ask if BURGESS was working for British Intelligence or whether in fact BLUNT thought that REES meant that BURGESS was working for the Comintern. REES said that it was his firm impression that BLUNT thought that REES meant that BURGESS was working for the Comintern and again that he thought on balance that BLUNT was in fact working for the Comintern.

The composition of the party which went regularly to the Chelsea Palace was BURGESS, a woman friend of [redacted] whose name REES has forgotten (but it was not Tess MAYER or Pat RAWDON-SMITH), Captain Liddell, and [redacted]

*Elaine FINLAY*

The party at New Bond Street before BURGESS left for America was attended by Hector McNeil, Captain Liddell, Anthony BLUNT, [redacted]



171A

Reference

- 3 -

amongst others. REES could not remember any other members of M.I.5. being present.

REES says that he wrote that NUNN MAY was a friend of both BURGESS and MACLEAN because BURGESS had told him that he knew NUNN MAY at Cambridge.

I then asked REES if he would care to tell me when he first started writing the book. He said that he began it before Christmas, probably in about November 1955, and after stopping, due to pressure of other work, began it again in February, 1956. Some of the book had been written "quite recently". I reminded REES of his review of the book "Witness" by Whittaker Chambers, when he wrote about it in The Listener on 20 February, 1953, in a vein which we rightly or wrongly had interpreted as showing that REES probably was quite sympathetic to the Communist cause. Certainly when REES's review of Cyril Connolly's book "The Missing Diplomats" had appeared in the Daily Telegraph for 27 February, 1953, it was clear that REES was angry with those who put forward an "uncharitable view" of BURGESS's behaviour and that he had said that it was wrong to write in the way that Connolly did when pain could be given to living persons by such criticism. It was evident from the articles now appearing in "The People" that there had been a substantial change in REES's views and I wondered what had accounted for it. REES replied that in 1953 it seemed only right to give BURGESS the benefit of the doubt but that after the press conference which had been given in Moscow by BURGESS and MACLEAN no further reservations could be entertained about their behaviour.

We then passed to consideration of the case of PHILBY. I told REES that immediately after the disappearance we were naturally most concerned to determine if BURGESS and/or MACLEAN had learned of the investigations into MACLEAN's activities and if they had learned about it, how they had done so. In America PHILBY had been aware of our investigations into MACLEAN and we had discovered after the disappearance that BURGESS had stayed with PHILBY in Washington and had been a close friend of his for very many years. Our attention had therefore been attracted to PHILBY and I wondered if REES could add anything to what he had written about PHILBY in his book. REES said that he could add really nothing. BURGESS had been a great admirer of PHILBY who had been rather a lone wolf while he was at Cambridge. PHILBY had also continued his friendship with BURGESS even after BURGESS had said that he was renouncing the Communist cause. REES really could not express an opinion on the extent to which PHILBY might have been concerned in BURGESS's espionage activities but thought that BURGESS would certainly have used PHILBY as an unconscious source.

I told REES that he had written in his book of a don who had sent letters to BURGESS many years ago of a compromising nature. We did not need to know the identity of this don if he did not care to give it. REES said that he preferred not to give us the name. I told him I was content with that reply if he could assure me that the person concerned was not occupying a Government position or any other position where he would have access to secrets. At this REES said he could give me that assurance and then after some hesitation said that to put our minds at rest he was prepared to say that the don concerned was the present warden of All Souls, John SPARROW. REES added that he thought that SPARROW was one of many people who were extremely worried about the possibility of being blackmailed by BURGESS at the present time. I told REES that I had in fact seen SPARROW's letters and very many other letters which we had obtained when we searched BURGESS's flat with the help of BLUNT on Thursday, 7 June. As an indication of the amount of work which we had carried out after this search I said that at least five hundred names of acquaintances and friends of BURGESS had been brought to light and that all had been looked into, investigated when necessary and interviewed if any of them occupied positions in which they would have access to secret information. I added that amongst the letters to BURGESS we had also found ones from REES. REES said that, with respect, we did not get all the letters from the flat because HEWIT had kept some back. I asked

/him



Reference.....

- 4 -

him how he knew it. REES replied that HEWIT had told a friend that he had done so but that REES thought that the letters that HEWIT had kept were probably ones that had arrived for BURGESS at the flat after his disappearance.

I told REES that the letters that had been seized from BURGESS's flat were crammed into a guitar case and were lying in an untidy jumble in the bottom of BURGESS's wardrobe. They were in no way ticketed or docketed as REES claimed to be the case in his book. REES said that he knew this to be so and the facts were not quite as he put them in his book. I told REES that these letters had been invaluable to us and from an examination of them and of other documents we had formed some idea of the network that had operated for BURGESS and we had indeed caught one person who was almost certainly a spy though there had been insufficient evidence for a prosecution.

I then asked REES if he could think if people who in his opinion might have been working with BURGESS in his espionage organisation. I realised that this was the "sixty-four dollar question" and that he might want to think about it carefully before he made any reply.

REES asked me if we had ever considered John CAIRNCROSS. I told REES that he had certainly hit the nail on the head for we were quite sure that CAIRNCROSS had indeed been working for BURGESS. I asked REES why he had mentioned CAIRNCROSS as his first candidate. REES replied that CAIRNCROSS was a person whom BURGESS was constantly talking about before the war. He was a person whom BURGESS over-praised so much that REES thought the praise suspicious. This of course was one of BURGESS's most annoying characteristics. He was constantly seizing upon the name of some fairly intelligent individual and maintaining to his friends that the person was the most remarkable man he had ever met. In the case of CAIRNCROSS he was no doubt a brilliant man but not nearly so brilliant as BURGESS constantly claimed.

For his second candidate REES asked if we had considered KESSLER. I said that we had and it was very probable that KESSLER had been working for BURGESS. REES then asked if we had made any enquiries about KESSLER's brother-in-law at Oxford, a certain Robin ? ZAEHNER. I told REES that I did not know the name except vaguely and REES added quickly that he was not suggesting that ZAEHNER was in fact active at the present time as he had every reason to believe that ZAEHNER had fallen out with KESSLER. It appeared that ZAEHNER had lent KESSLER some money and that the money had not been repaid. (I see from "Who's Who" that it is Professor Robert Charles ZAEHNER, M.A., Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics since 1952, address All Souls College, Oxford.)

REES next suggested the name Eddie PLAYFAIR. I replied that this did not ring much of a bell with me but I thought that we had been aware of his name. I would certainly look into it.

The next suggestion from REES was a Czech or person of Central European nationality who had been a close friend of BURGESS and of BLUNT. At first REES could not remember his name but without prompting suddenly recalled that it was REVAI. REES gave it as his opinion that REVAI had certainly been a member of Guy's organisation and that he assumed we had questioned REVAI after the disappearance. I replied that I was not sure if REVAI had been questioned but on the whole I did not think so. I did know that REVAI had applied for naturalisation which for some reason had been refused. REES said that he could not suggest any other names but wondered if we had considered investigating the only secret society that really was a secret society; the organisation called "The Society" at Cambridge. I told REES that I did not know anything about it unless he was referring to the organisation that we knew as "The Conversazione Society" of which Guy had been the Secretary for a time. REES said that was the

/organisation



Reference .....

- 5 -

organisation to which he was referring and that so far as he knew BURGESS's activities as secretary had been the most inglorious of his career. I told REES that it had been very difficult to decide who in the Society had been connected with BURGESS through the normal social events and who had been connected with him and the Society through their mutual dealings in Communism or espionage. I mentioned to REES the name of Sir Harold Nicholson, for example. REES replied that he was another he had in mind as being in an extremely difficult and dangerous position at the present time for potential blackmail.

REES said that he also remembered that BURGESS once tried to get Alan MACLEAN a job

REES asked if I knew the name KATKOV. He said that KATKOV was in close touch with a number of Russian emigres and with certain activities that took place at Bradford. REES was a little worried at the fact that KATKOV was frequently in touch with David FOOTMAN about these activities and that David FOOTMAN had during the past year become virulently anti-Russian. He could not understand why and thought that it would be a dreadful thing if the names of KATKOV and his associates got back to the R.I.S. through perhaps FOOTMAN having still some connections if indeed he ever had any. REES, however, had nothing positive to offer as evidence on this score.

We were by this time coming to the end of our discussion and I asked REES how many more articles were going to appear in "The People". He replied "three".

REES asked me if I was aware that Jackie HEWIT intended to bring an action against the American newspaper "Time" for an article which they had published about eighteen months ago in which they had said that BURGESS had been sharing a flat in Bond Street with "Jackie HEWIT, a male prostitute". I said that I was not surprised at this but thought it seemed to be a pretty dangerous action for HEWIT to bring. REES reckoned that HEWIT would win the action and get a farthing damages.

Mr. Skardon and I gave REES a lift to 49, Upper Brook Street, to which address he said he was going. Just before I left him - in the hope of getting a rise - I said that some previous conversation which we had had in the car about jealousy made me wonder how the "Daily Express" and Colonel Pinto were feeling about the series now running in "The People". I said that I expected that the "Daily Express" were rather annoyed about it. REES replied "Yes".

D.1.A.  
26.3.56.

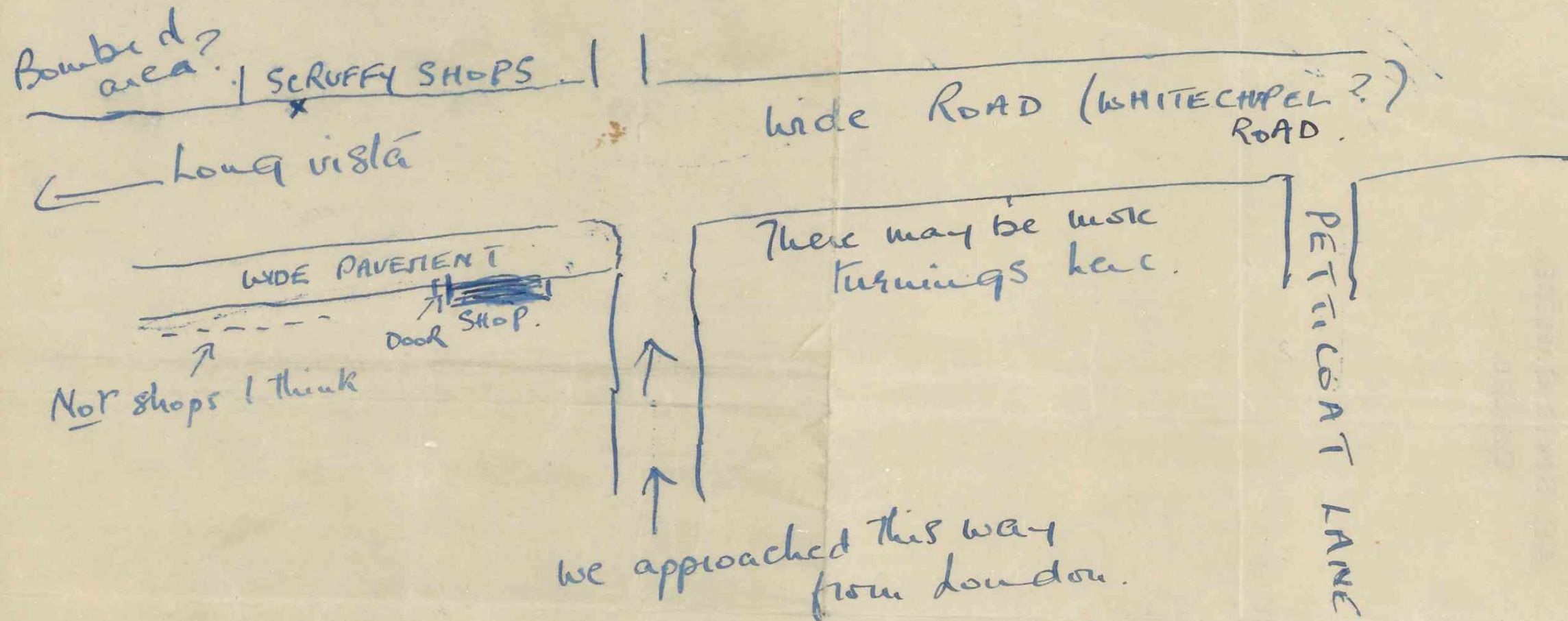
*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958 JANUARY 2022

51-6987  
Y.P.C.  
(NT)



Time's date I think it was in Andie Revan's car which  
 Guy had borrowed. He said the shop was a secret as he  
 didn't want people to know where he got his things from.



The window was full of clothes (seamens)  
 I'm sure I could find it again.  
 Guy said he used to go to a restaurant over the  
 road which I seem to remember.  
 \* = restaurant.



May/June 1951Sequence of Events

Friday, 25 May, a.m. FOOTMAN telephoned BURGESS  
 a.m. BLUNT saw BURGESS  
 a.m. BURGESS telephoned to Margy REES in the morning.  
 Goronwy REES at Oxford.

Saturday, 26 May, HEWITT telephoned to Margy REES expressing alarm  
 that BURGESS had not come home Friday night.  
 Goronwy REES at Oxford.

Sunday, 27 May, HEWITT telephoned Margy REES again in alarm  
 p.m. Goronwy REES returned home from Oxford in the  
 evening.

Monday, 28 May, a.m. REES telephoned to FOOTMAN.  
 a.m. REES telephoned to BLUNT.  
 p.m. BLUNT visited REES at Sonning in the afternoon.  
 (all this according to REES)

Tuesday, 29 May, 11 a.m. David FOOTMAN telephoned to Guy Liddell referring  
 to BURGESS's mysterious disappearance. BURGESS had not  
 been seen since Friday and had telephoned either on Thursday  
 or Friday to Margy REES when he said amongst other things  
 that he was not likely to see her for a long time. HEWITT  
 also told FOOTMAN that BURGESS had hired a car and had a lot  
 of money. FOOTMAN had spoken by telephone to BURGESS on  
 Friday. BURGESS should have dined on Monday night (28) with  
 Michael Berry.

Guy Liddell spoke to BLUNT after 6 p.m. (He had been away all  
 day until 6 p.m.) BLUNT said that Jackie rang up on Saturday  
 to report that BURGESS had not come home the previous evening.

Wednesday, 30 May, BLUNT and HARRIS came to see Guy Liddell. They were  
 that BURGESS had left the country for France with another  
 Foreign Office official. BLUNT asked if the Foreign Office  
 official was MACLEAN. BURGESS had told BLUNT and MILLER that  
 he had to help a friend over the weekend who was in some sex  
 trouble and was being blackmailed. BLUNT and HARRIS had  
 speculated over the identity of this friend and had thought of  
 MACLEAN. HARRIS and BLUNT assured Guy Liddell that they  
 would on no account disclose to anyone that BURGESS had been  
 accompanied by MACLEAN.

Friday, 1 June Guy Liddell reported that he had received a message from REES  
 that BURGESS telephoned Margy REES recently and  
 that the conversation was "alarming". "Alarming" in the  
 sense that BURGESS may have intended to go to Russia.  
 was asked by Guy Liddell to reconstruct the converse

Saturday, 2 June Guy Liddell received from BLUNT a list of hotels  
 (our suggestion) where B. and M. might stay, also  
 might stay at Ascona or on Lake Maggiore.

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 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958 MAR 14 2022

REES wrote letter reconstructing telephone conversati  
 Margy REES. Letter is dated 2 June and sent to David  
 Handed to Dick White by David FOOTMAN on Wednesday, 6 J

/Wednes



- 2 -

Wednesday, 6 June, 1951

1500 hrs. REES and BLUNT came together and were seen at Leconfield House by Dick White.

Evening. Anthony BLUNT collected a locked case from the Reform Club. The case had been left there by BURGESS on 25 May. When he handed over the despatch case BURGESS told Mr. Bell of the Reform Club that BLUNT could have access to it.

Thursday, 7 June

We searched BURGESS's flat in Bond Street helped by BLUNT in the afternoon.

1800 hrs. REES came to see Dick White.

27 June

Jackie tried to commit suicide after the Express article.



**SECRET**

176A

PF.604,583/D.1.A/RTR

23<sup>rd</sup> March 1956

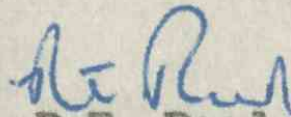
Dear Harlow,

We spoke today about the application I have made for the resumption of the letter check upon Morgan Goronwy REES at his home address Plas Penglais, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, and c/o The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

In order to obtain the maximum security on this check you said that if approval was given you could arrange to intercept correspondence from London and the Home Counties and possibly from Oxford where a number of the friends of REES live. For the moment we do not require to intercept local correspondence addressed to REES.

I have asked that the check shall be an emanating one also so that if I obtain prior knowledge that REES intends to write a letter that is of security interest I shall be able to give you the address to which it may be sent so that we may be able to have a sight of the letter.

Yours sincerely,

  
R. T. Reed.G.A. Harlow, Esq.,  
G.P.O.**SECRET**DM/A  
23/3/56



SECRET.23<sup>rd</sup> March 1956 175A

12058

To THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, and all others whom it may concern:

I hereby authorize and require you to detain, open and produce for my inspection all postal packets and telegrams addressed to:— **and emanating from:—**

Morgan Coronwy REES,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth,  
Cardiganshire.

and c/o The University  
College of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

or to any name at that or any other address if there is reasonable ground to believe that they are intended for the said

and for so doing this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

This man was a close friend of Guy BURGESS for many years and has admitted collaborating with BURGESS in passing information to a Foreign Power. REES is the author of the anonymous series of articles at present appearing in the Sunday newspaper "The People". It is hoped to obtain information on his current activities and contacts.

PF.604,583/D.1.A.

One of His Majesty's  
Principal Secretaries of State.

S. Form 56.



PF. 604583

173b.

Admiral Thomson called this afternoon, bringing with him the proof of next Sunday's article in the "People", on Guy BURGESS.

I went through this article with Mr. Reed, and we agreed there was nothing in it to which we could take exception.

L.A.  
22.3.56.

B. A. Hill  
B.A. Hill.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

PF. 604583/LA

ROOM 055,

173A

20th March 1956.

My dear Admiral,

I thank you for your letter of March 16th enclosing Sir Stuart Campbell's letter to you of the 13th March, which I return herewith.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Hill

B.A. Hill.

Rear-Admiral G.P. Thomson, C.B., C.B.E.,  
Services, Press & Broadcasting Committee,  
Canning House,  
2 Belgrave Square,  
S.W.1.

Enclosure

BAH/PB

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DM/PB  
20/3/56



S. Form 81/rev. 12.53

## EXTRACT

(51685) WT63115 GP.677

Extract for File No. : PF. 604,583 Name : REES, Goronwy

Original in File No. : \* PF. 604,529 Vol. : 14 Serial : 664z Receipt Date : 19.3.56.

Original from : Intercept letter Under Ref. : Dated :

Extracted on : 4.5.56. by : PMD Section : D.1.A.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM GUY BURGESS TO HIS MOTHER MENTIONING GORONWY REES

.....

I was delighted by your news about Goronwy's new job - though as a matter of fact it wasn't quite news since I had read about it in Tom Jones' published Diary (which I think you and Jack would find interesting if you haven't read it.) Will you send my godson, one of Goronwy's twins - David F. is godfather to the other - £10 - which is about what I reckon I owe on lapsed contributions to his War Loan saving book which I started for him as some godfather once did for me. Perhaps I'll write to Goronwy.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner



to sustain life," he said.

In these surroundings Burgess carried on his strange activities and entertained his friends.

These parties sometimes brought together men of high repute with others whom Guy was cultivating as possible sources of information that Moscow would find useful.

At one of these parties before the war the mixture of guests was particularly strange.

There was Otto Katz, a short, immensely fat Central European who emerged after the war as a leader of the Czech Communists—and then was shot after a spy trial.

There was Baron zu Putlitz, an official at the German Embassy who did a great service for Britain when he gave

When I held back, however, he told me something that did take my breath away. He named one of this country's most celebrated academic figures as a fellow Comintern agent.

It would be unfair to identify him. But this much you are entitled to know about "X."

### **HE WAS ONE OF BURGESS'S BOON SEX COMPANIONS. AND HE HOLDS A HIGH POSITION IN PUBLIC LIFE TODAY.**

Guy begged me not to speak to "X" about their activities on behalf of the Comintern.

"The people I work for make it their first principle that their agents should never contact

young man he had corrupted. He actually got this perverted lad installed as a telephone operator in Henlein's hotel.

### **A record**

In the space of a few days Guy had a complete record of all Henlein's phone conversations. Then he proudly told me how he handed over the vital information he had gathered to a Russian in an East End café.

Guy was up to his neck in spying—but since it was not directed against Britain there seemed to be nothing I ought to report to the authorities.

Besides, at this very time my friend was—on the surface—performing very useful services on the B.B.C. He was given charge of "This Week in Parliament" and earned the praise of many M.P.s he produced at the microphone.

With his B.B.C. salary and a modest private income, Guy was comfortably off. Yet the money he spent on drink, parties and with friends was a good deal more than he could afford.

### **The source**

What was the source of the extra money he was obviously getting? I did not know.

But from time to time, when Guy rummaged about one of his incredibly untidy cupboards, I did catch a glimpse of bundles of banknotes whose size made me blink.

Then the conviction began to grow upon me that it was about time the authorities were told of Guy's peculiar activities and of the large sums he was apparently receiving for them.

Then war broke out. Guy at once told me that our friend "X" was quitting as a Comintern agent. Guy, too, said he wanted to "forget all about it."

A great load was lifted from my mind. There was now no need to say anything about Guy to the authorities.

In any case, within a few months Guy Burgess had become—believe it or not—an official member of a British intelligence mission!

**NEXT WEEK :** How Burgess wormed his way into the highest Secret Service circles. Then the Foreign Office gave him a hush-hush job that put him into touch with some of our most confidential representatives abroad.



The People

PA Rec

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Date 18.3.56

Men in high places made friends with this traitor

# 'He kept BLACKMAIL LETTERS in his room'

THE MOST PAINFUL PART OF THE ENTIRE GUY BURGESS AFFAIR IS THE STORY OF HIS INCREDIBLY DEPRAVED PRIVATE LIFE.

For this man who was the greatest traitor Britain has ever known—and who for a long time was my closest friend—indulged in practices that repel all normal people.

Yet I must place the facts before you because they disclose a state of affairs in high places that remains to this day a terrible danger to Britain's security.

Guy Burgess was not only guilty of practising unnatural vices. He also had, among his numerous friends, many who shared his abnormal tastes.

And he was in a position to blackmail some of them—including men in influential positions—to get information for his Russian masters.

## Removed

When Burgess fled to Moscow with Donald Maclean, several of his friends were quietly removed from their positions of influence.

I am quite sure that some remain. As long as they do so they are liable to be blackmailed by Russian agents.

Burgess has certainly supplied the Soviet spy chiefs with a complete list of the influential men with whom he associated. And I am afraid that the list is long and imposing.

I know this to be so because



## GUY BURGESS STRIPPED BARE!

I met practically every one of Guy Burgess's friends, among them his homosexual "conquests." They included men of some consequence in public affairs.

And I know that Guy kept careful record of his association with them because of a revealing incident at his London flat which took place when, unknown to me, he had already been active for a number of years as a Russian spy.

We were talking about a mutual friend, a man who has had a distinguished academic career since leaving the university. While he was an undergraduate he and Burgess had been on more than friendly terms.

I asked Guy if he remem-

bered this man. He laughed and said he did.

"As a matter of fact I still have his love letters," he said.

And then, to my horror, he dug into a cupboard and produced a neat little bundle of letters labelled with the name of this very influential personage.

It seems that Guy Burgess never destroyed a letter. He docketed and sorted every one he received from all the men with whom he shared his sex adventures.

Even then, though I had no positive knowledge that Guy was a spy, it made my hair stand on end to think of the blackmail power this collection of letters gave to my friend.

Now you may not think it un-

usual or disquieting for anyone to file all his personal correspondence so carefully. But I can assure you that it ran completely against Burgess's nature in other respects.

The frantic disorder that surrounded everything he did—with the sole exception of his correspondence—was quite fantastic.

To give you some idea of his bizarre way of life, let me describe a visit I paid to his Mayfair flat one Sunday morning not long before his flight to Russia.

His room was decorated in red, white and blue. This, he claimed, was the only possible colour scheme for him.

But the patriotic décor was completely submerged in the indescribable debris and confusion of the party which had evidently taken place the night before.

He was lying in his bed—which had blue sheets. The red counterpane was littered with newspapers.

## Red wine

Beside the bed, on the one side, stood a pile of books. On the other side stood two bottles of red wine and a very large, very heavy, iron saucepan filled to the brim with a kind of thick grey gruel.

Guy told me what was in it—porridge, kippers, bacon, garlic, onions and a lot of other things that had been lying about his larder.

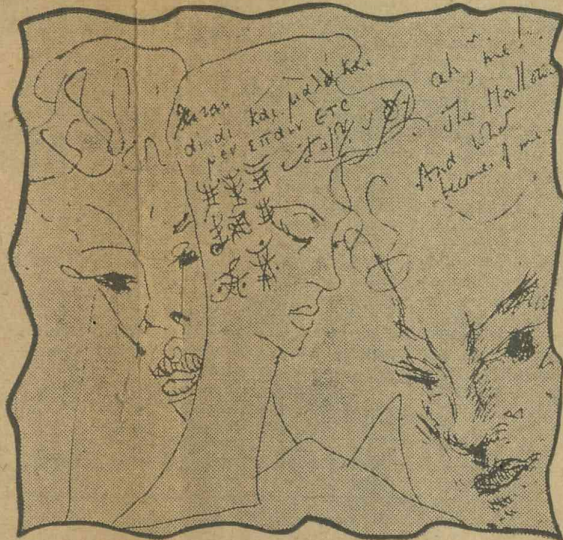
He had cooked this incredible mess on the previous day. He proposed to live on it until the following Monday.

"I got everything necessary

● The man who was the closest friend Guy Burgess ever had—a distinguished figure in the academic world—has written this series of important articles.

● They disclose for the first time the real damage this traitor did to Britain—and how his betrayals were made possible.

● Today Burgess's friend lays bare the whole sordid tale of his private life. It is the key to the scandal. For Burgess's depraved circle included men in the highest places!



This was a mind in agony

WHEN Burgess made this strange drawing his mind was in a state of agonised excitement. That is the verdict of a psychologist who has studied it. The scribbles were in several languages. "The Mallows" may refer to the plant of that name. It grows wild.

Hitler's war plans to our Intelligence Service. He later went over to the Russians and now lives in the Soviet sector of Berlin.

A sinister Frenchman was another guest. He became confidential adviser to Prime Minister Daladier in Paris.

In addition to this collection of foreigners with access to the underworld of international politics were two Englishmen who formed an astonishing contrast.

For one was a working-class lad named Jackie Hewitt. And the other was a distinguished scholar!

Even at that time I was aware of the fact that my friend Guy was searching for information to convey to Moscow. But I thought it was only political intelligence he was after, not Britain's secrets.

Shortly before the party he had stunned me by disclosing that he was an agent of the Communist International! He had been pretending to have Nazi sympathies, he said, to cover up his work for Moscow Headquarters.

In my innocence I thought he was merely trying to help the Communists in their world-wide battle against the Fascists and Nazis. So, in spite of my astonishment, I was not really shocked when he asked

one another, even through third parties," he said.

Nevertheless, out of sheer curiosity, I resolved to approach "X." Walking with him in a London park one day, I suddenly said: "I gather you know what Guy is really up to?"

"Yes," he replied curtly. And he made it quite clear that he did not want to talk any more about Guy Burgess and himself.

From that moment I had to believe that Guy was indeed a Red agent and—though not perhaps a spy—working for the Soviet Government itself.

And there was no doubt that Guy pursued his secret work with enthusiasm and success. Indeed I spent a great deal of time with him while he was bringing off a truly remarkable spying coup.

The date was the summer of 1938, when Hitler was threatening to go to war against Czechoslovakia unless the territory inhabited by the Sudeten Germans was handed over to him.

Konrad Henlein, the Sudeten German leader, came to London to enlist the support of leading British politicians whom he thought might prove sympathetic to Hitler's claim.

Guy was determined to find out who these politicians were and exactly how they reacted to Henlein's approaches.



Jack Hewitt. He was at a strange Burgess party



243

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

## SERVICES, PRESS AND BROADCASTING COMMITTEE

SECRETARY: George P. Thomson  
 (Rear Admiral, retired), Canning House,  
 2 Belgrave Square,  
 London, S.W.1  
 Telephone : Sloane 7186



(Address during non-working hours)  
 2 Heath Rise,  
 Putney Hill,  
 London, S.W.15  
 Telephone : Putney 2915

B. A. Hill, Esq.,  
 Room 055,  
 War Office,  
 Whitehall, S.W.1.

March 16th, 1956.

My dear Hill,

I omitted to give your Secretary a receipt for the "People's" article and as I am writing I may as well enclose Stuart Campbell's letter of the 13th March which I spoke to you about.

Sincerely yours

*George P. Thomson*

ENCL

*1 page*

17 MAR 1956

TO

*UA*

REF

*PF604583*

*DM/B  
20/3/56*



COPY

THE PEOPLE

Proprietors: Odhams Press Ltd.

Telephone:  
Temple Bar 5400

Editorial Offices,  
92, Long Acre,  
London, W.C.2.

13th March 1956

My dear Thomson,

It was extremely kind of you to act so slickly in passing our proof and though I have no doubt at all that none of the subsequent articles will infringe your D notices, I am taking the precaution of letting you have proofs of them.

One of the guiding principles we are working on is to leave out all names of associates as, from past experience, I realise only too well how the most innocent characters can suddenly attain enormous significance in the eyes of your department.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Stuart CAMPBELL.

Rear-Admiral G.P. Thomson,  
2 Belgrave Square,  
London, S.W.1.



SECRET AND PERSONAL

Copy for PF.604,529.

✓PF.604,583/D.

16 March 1956.

Dear

I am enclosing a copy of a book about BURGESS and his friends and acquaintances which provides the basis for a series of articles now appearing in the Sunday newspaper "The People". The paper, as it turns out, are taking a pretty free hand with the text.

The book was written by Goronwy REES, Principal of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. You will recall that it was REES who came forward in June 1951 to volunteer a statement concerning BURGESS's attempt to induce him to participate in undercover work for the Comintern.

Please bear in mind that this book was handed to a Security Service officer by REES on a strictly confidential basis and on the understanding that the information contained in it would not be disclosed to anyone outside this Service. No reference should be made to it in any other documents. I am sure that you will refer to me before any Foreign Office action on it is contemplated. We do not know if the book will ever appear in print, nor do we know yet how much of it will be serialised in "The People".

We do not know the identities of some characters mentioned in the book, but I am attaching a key to most of them which may help you.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to

Yours

G.R. Mitchell.

P.H. Dean, Esq., C.M.G.,  
The Foreign Office.

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ACT 1958 OCTOBER 2020

SECRET AND PERSONAL



Telephone: VICTORIA 6912

Telegrams: PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS  
SOWEST, LONDON.

Any further communications to be  
addressed to THE DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS (and not to  
any individual by name).



170A  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS,  
12, BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

March 15, 1956.

Please quote:—

Your reference:—PF. 604583/LA

SECRET

ENCL  
DE 2

16 MAR 1956

TO

L.A. DIA

REF.

P.F. 604,583

Help  
DIA  
PA

My dear Hill,

Thank you for your letter.

I am delighted to hear the Goronwy Rees matter is  
proceeding satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

Theodore Tatham

B.A. Hill, Esq.,  
Box No. 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

68/12

DIA  
17/3/56



CONFIDENTIAL

1167A

PF. 604583/LA

16th March 1956

My dear Admiral,

I return herewith the current article which is to appear in next Sunday's "People", which you left with me today. Would you kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Hill

B.A. Hill.

Rear-Admiral G.P. Thomson, C.B., C.B.E.,  
Services, Press & Broadcasting Committee,  
Canning House,  
2 Belgrave Square,  
S.W.1.

Enclosure

CONFIDENTIAL

DTH/B  
16/3/56



PF. 604583

168A

Admiral Thomson brought me this morning the current article which is to appear in "The People" next Sunday (March 18th).

I showed this to Reed in the first instance and later to the D.G. and D. I raised with the D.G. as to whether he wanted me to try and get Anthony BLUNT's name deleted. The D.G. said he thought it better not to do this and that we should pass the article as it stood.

I therefore immediately rang Admiral Thomson and told him we were not taking any objection, and authorised him so to inform the Editor of "The People".

L.A.  
16.3.56

B. A. Hill. *B. A. Hill*

*B.A. Hill*  
16/3/56



PF. 604583

1662

I rang Admiral Thomson and told him that we had seen Mr. Goronwy REES, and he was providing us with the information we wanted. Therefore there was no question of any legal proceedings being taken.

I asked the Admiral if he himself had heard from "The People", but he said he had not. I said it was very necessary for us to see these articles, as there would undoubtedly be a series of them, and I was therefore relying on him to get me the weekly instalments before they came out.

The Admiral said he was expecting to get the instalment for next Sunday by Friday, but if he did not he would ring Mr. Ainsworth.

L.A.  
15.3.56.

B. A. Hill.

B. A. Hill



PF. 604,583. ✓

166B

Extract from note by D. in PF. 604,592 re  
Captain Liddell's meeting with \_\_\_\_\_ on  
14.3.56.

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.....

\_\_\_\_\_ referred to the article on  
BURGESS in the 11 March issue of "The People".  
He said that it was patent that Goronwy REES  
had written it - or rather that it had been  
hashed up by "The People" on the basis of a  
document by Goronwy REES. He was much annoyed  
with REES for having published this material and  
said he had written him a stinker. He hoped that  
BLUNT would not be smeared in future articles.

Captain Liddell said that \_\_\_\_\_ had a  
clean and decent appearance and did not look like  
a homo-sexual.

D.  
15.3.56.

G.R. Mitchell.

22/10  
16/3/56

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PF. 604592 Blunt.

166 A

In accordance with your instructions, on the morning of 11 March I obtained a copy of "The People", and found that although there were some slight differences between the article which appeared on page 3 of that journal and the photostat proof, there were still a number of questions which required to be put to Morgan Goronwy REES.

Before telephoning him however, to seek an appointment, I did take the precaution of speaking to you and obtaining your assent. At about 9.15 a.m., having discovered that A.2.A. were prepared, I put through a call to Aberystwyth 7083 on my emergency telephone number, Whitehall 2017. I was connected almost immediately and spoke to Mrs. REES who told me that her husband was away for the day. The short conversation that followed, and this I imagine will be a matter of record elsewhere, convinced me that she was protecting her husband from telephone calls, possibly anticipating that the Press would become active. For this reason I gave her my name, told her that I wanted to speak to her husband urgently upon an official matter, and suggested that if she could discover where I might find him, I would ring back within half an hour to learn the result of her enquiries. My belief that she was concealing the actual presence of her husband at home was confirmed when, a few minutes later, I received a telephone call from her and was immediately put into touch with REES himself.

When I sought to remind REES of our meeting on 6 June, 1951, he professed to remember me very well and no further introduction was necessary. I told him that I had been instructed to interview him concerning an article which had appeared that morning in "The People" which I assumed had been written by him. I discovered that he was not going to be in London in the immediate future and proposed that I should travel to Aberystwyth to see him on the evening of 11 March or the morning of 12 March, but left myself free to telephone him and make an appointment upon my arrival.

By prior arrangements confirmed after the telephone conversation, I picked up an A.4. car, - the A.4. driver, and Mr. R.T. Reed, and we set off from Clapham Junction at 11.30 a.m. on 11 March.

We arrived at Aberystwyth at 6.30 p.m. and took the precaution of booking in at the Marine Hotel in the names of Seddon (myself) and Bannerman (Mr. Reed). I telephoned REES from the hotel and made an appointment to see him at 8.30 p.m. the same evening.

When we arrived there at the due time, I think that REES was slightly surprised to find that I was accompanied by a colleague and for this or some other reason the atmosphere was pretty chilly at the outset of the interview. It is possible of course that REES anticipated that I was there on some critical mission, or that we were about to threaten proceedings or something of this kind.

I had settled with Mr. Reed a series of questions which we thought would provide the answers required by us. These questions, as you will understand, were based principally upon the promises contained in the 'trailing' paragraph in the article in "The People", and the advertisement concerning the articles which appeared in the Daily Mirror on Friday, 9 March.

I introduced the full purpose of my visit by referring in the first instance to the advertisement which contains the phrase "Frightening new facts that must be told". I pointed out to REES that if there were new facts, they were as likely to frighten the Security Service as anyone else, and certainly we were bound to do our duty to discover at all times all facts either new or old concerning this particular case. I then put the questions to him in the following order:-

(1) I asked him what was meant by the phrase "Friends in high places who practice the same terrible vices". REES said that this statement, whilst he believes it to be true, will not be substantiated in the articles. He said that because of his conduct and habits BURGESS was a most dangerous person. These friends who shared his vices would obviously be extremely vulnerable

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and he, REES, had but one anxiety, to bring out the truth about these risks. Either at this stage of the interview or later he said that whereas he had provided the material upon which these articles were based, he was not responsible for the form that they took, since the paper had indicated a need to hit the public hard in order to drive home the truth.

(2) "Messages of friendship from Moscow", revealed by REES. The only message received by REES was one recently through Mrs. BASSETT who said that she had received a telegram from her son. We, of course, pretended to know nothing about this telegram and professed that it was a surprise that he had received such a message.

(3) "How BURGESS named a famous British scholar as his fellow Soviet agent". This person will not be named in the articles. He is, of course, Professor Anthony BLUNT.

(4) "His spying work during the war". This refers to that absurd enterprise with which Sir Joseph BALL was connected.

(5) "How he got a blackmail hold on some of his highly-placed friends". No precise information will be given in the articles upon this point. The general facts and possibilities will be set out and it will be shown that through his inside knowledge of the habits of certain highly-placed friends he would also hold a threat in reserve.

(6) "How BURGESS learnt the identity of top British secret agents". Here the articles will show how BURGESS met people, for example in Washington, whilst he was with the Foreign Service. It will refer to the Summer School at Oxford and to his friends in the Security Service. On this point REES told me that BURGESS, for example, knew all about SKARDON. He agreed that the extent of his knowledge would probably be limited to the publicity resulting from trials and newspaper accounts of them. He informed me, however, that more information about me would be available to BURGESS through his friendship with people connected with the Security Service.

(7) "How he tapped the telephone lines of a visiting diplomat". This referred to the Goring Hotel story and HEWITT's employment on the switchboard there and to no other fact.

(8) "How he gained access to a Foreign Secretary's safe". This is the absurd story of an occasion when REES called at the Foreign Office to pick up from BURGESS, when he was Personal Assistant to Hector McNeil, a copy of a Kinsey report of that time. BURGESS said that he had hidden it in the one place that would be secure, namely in "Ernie's" safe. This apparently was an old disused safe belonging to former Foreign Secretaries, and currently used at that time as a storehouse for unwanted books and papers.

(9) "How BURGESS held in his grip important Foreign Office officials". This quotation from the front page of "The People" of 11 March, refers precisely the same information as is contained in question (5).

By way of general explanation REES said that BURGESS had this inordinate curiosity about the lives, habits and behaviour of his friends in M.I.5

I asked him if it was intended to particularise with regard to the individuals whom it was said were under BURGESS's malign influence. He said that it was not his intention to do so, nobody was named but he pointed out that with friends in such high places as Captain Guy LIDDELL in M.I.5 having regard to the general atmosphere which prevailed at "Crawford Street", he felt sure that at the very least Guy LIDDELL was an unconscious source of information to BURGESS. The same applied to other highly placed friends who were associated with him, some of whom were certainly on the most intimate physical terms with him.

I questioned whether Captain LIDDELL would have been even an unconscious source in any circumstance whatsoever. It seemed to me that there were plenty of subjects of mutual interest to these people and I referred to their artistic

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- 3 -

and literary connections, and expressed the view that Captain LIDDELL was sufficiently well-trained to avoid discussing official matters at unofficial parties. It was clear that this opinion was not held by REES.

Having indicated that these were the questions that I had been instructed to put the atmosphere became slightly less frigid and the tension to some extent relieved.

I asked REES whether there was any further matter which had come to light between the date of our interview on 6 June, 1951, and the present date which he thought ought properly to be brought to the notice of the Authorities. He then said to me "How far can I trust you?". I told him that he could trust me faithfully to report everything that was said during the course of this interview and to place the report before my masters. He enquired whether this information would be retained within our Service or would be available to outsiders. It became quite clear that his principal concern was lest this story or any part of it was to reach the ears of Anthony BLUNT. I gave him my assurance that there was no reason at all to suppose that any part of the present interview was likely to become known to that individual. REES then asked the question "You do know that Anthony BLUNT endeavoured very hard to dissuade me from coming to your Office with information about the disappearance of BURGESS on 29 May, 1951?". I professed to be ignorant of this fact and he went on to say in addition that BLUNT had seen BURGESS on the Friday morning of the disappearance. We said we did not know this either.

There followed a general discussion between REES and Mr. Reed in which I took but a small part, for they were dealing with facts well known to both of them in which I am less well informed. During this discussion Mr. Reed and REES discussed the events of the week-end of the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN in some detail which will be the subject of a separate note by Mr. Reed.

After a lively conversation lasting this part of the interview about one hour, it was clear that REES was beginning to recover his confidence, and he said that if he thought he could trust me he would let me have a copy of the thirty thousand word book written by him upon which these "People" articles were to be based.

He explained that the book had been written simply to empty his mind of the whole subject immediately after the disappearance of BURGESS. It had been put away and forgotten until the publication of the White Paper and the subsequent appearance of BURGESS alive in Moscow, when he had decided that it should form the basis of an attempt to bring the full facts before the public. He had therefore passed this book to his agent who had offered it to "The People" and they, as has been stated earlier, agreed to publish it in a form which suited the paper.

He led us to believe that in publishing this story he was activated simply by motives of loyalty. He was most anxious that since the White Paper had white-washed BURGESS and showed that there was no evidence against him on which proceedings could be based, and since he had appeared in Moscow alive and apparently dangerous, he found it his bounden duty to do everything in his power to discredit the man in advance so that the harm which he might seek to do would be minimised.

I think he has lost sight of the possibility that he is likely, by the publication of this article, to do us as much damage as BURGESS might, if he made similar disclosures. I am fairly confident that his motives were not so completely objective but rather that he could do with the money.

When we were ready to depart a complete thaw had set in and he promised to send his book to me, but at this point Mr. Reed pressed him, with the result that he produced it forthwith and allowed us to take it away immediately. It was understood that we should copy it and he anticipates that arising from it a great many questions will require to be put. He anticipated a further visit

/from



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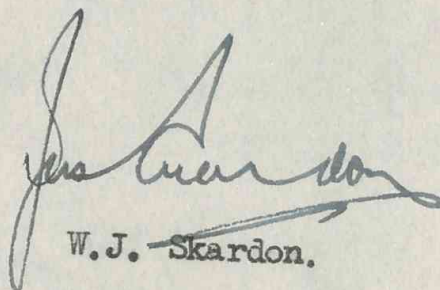
from Mr. Reed and hopes that I will be present so that he for his part may talk to me about other cases.

I think I will leave Mr. Reed to deal with the more sinister matters raised by REES, namely the pressure put upon him by BLUNT to dissuade him from reporting the BURGESS disappearance to the authorities, and details such as the visit alleged to have been paid by BURGESS to BLUNT on the day he departed for France on his way to Moscow.

It was clear that holding as he does a highly academic post REES is enjoying an extremely comfortable life. He has a very pleasant house at Aberystwyth. The atmosphere in it had become so cordial before we left that there was a pressing invitation from Mrs. REES to both of us to stay with them on our next visit.

I am unable to suggest that we experienced any difficulty in interrogating REES. Except on the question of motive for publication I imagine that he is entirely truthful and it is unlikely that he would be able to square his conscience unless he could satisfy himself that in publishing this disagreeable story he was serving some public good.

15 March, 1956.



W.J. Skardon.



Copy on PF. 605529  
Excluded for FOOTMAN and  
BLUNT.

165A

At this point I told REES that I would like to discuss with him the events of the week-end of the disappearance. I said that they had never been very clear to me or to anyone else and I invited him to go over them in detail.

REES said that on the Friday morning of the day of the disappearance Margy REES had received a telephone call from Guy BURGESS. In this call BURGESS had hinted that he was about to do something sensational and that it might get many of his friends into trouble. He had also said that Goronwy REES would think the less of BURGESS for having done what he was going to do. (It will be remembered that REES subsequently reconstructed this conversation in a letter which he sent to us.)

Margy REES did not know what BURGESS was talking about but thought that he was either drunk or in a highly excitable state so that she confined herself to talking platitudinously and very little else.

REES was away at Oxford at the time and did not know about this conversation. On the Saturday Jackie HEWITT telephoned Margy to say that BURGESS had not returned home. He asked if Guy BURGESS was staying with them and Margy REES told Jackie that he was not and that Goronwy was at Oxford. Jackie telephoned again two or three times that day rather hysterically and again on Sunday during the day, being so insistent to Margy about trying to find Guy BURGESS that eventually he persuaded her to ring through to Oxford to ask if Guy was with Goronwy REES.

When REES returned home on the Sunday evening Margy told him of these developments and REES immediately became very apprehensive. He says that he said to Margy, for no rational reason, that he had the horrid feeling that Guy had done something desperate like going to Russia. REES decided that he ought to take steps to inform M.I.5. of his conversation with Guy BURGESS in 1937 and the next morning, Monday, he telephoned to David FOOTMAN to ask him to make arrangements for REES to go to see M.I.5. He also telephoned to Anthony BLUNT because he said that as he intended to bring BLUNT's name into his denunciations he thought that BLUNT ought to know about it. BLUNT asked if he could come down to Sonning to see REES and arrived on the Monday afternoon.

When BLUNT arrived he did his best to dissuade REES from telling the authorities about BURGESS' statements in 1937. He pointed out to REES that there was no evidence that what Guy had said was true, that BLUNT had understood not that Guy was working for the Comintern but that he was working for a British intelligence organisation and that there was no concrete reason to believe that Guy had done anything so drastic as to try to get to Russia. REES was thoroughly confused about this, but said that he still thought he ought to make the facts known to M.I.5. REES subsequently received a telephone message from David FOOTMAN asking him to go to M.I.5. on the Tuesday afternoon. (It is not very clear when REES received this summons.)

REES came to London on the morning of Tuesday 29 May. He went straight to Anthony BLUNT's flat where BLUNT tried again to exert his influence to prevent REES from going to M.I.5. After some time, when REES said that in spite of BLUNT's protestations, he intended to go to M.I.5., BLUNT said that he insisted upon accompanying him and they therefore came together.

PF. 604592 - BLUNT and PF. 604589 FOOTMAN



- 2 -

I asked REES if he was sure that he spoke to David FOOTMAN on Monday 28 May. REES said he was positive about it and I replied that, to the best of my recollection, FOOTMAN did not make a report until about 11 a.m. on Tuesday 29th. REES said that he found that extremely interesting as he had never understood why there had been 24 hours delay on the part of M.I.5. before they had taken his story, for he had assumed that it would be of considerable importance and we should have wanted to hear it immediately. I told REES that now he had suggested that FOOTMAN probably reported it on Monday 28 May, I was a little confused in my own mind and I would prefer not to be so dogmatic about the date. I wanted the opportunity to consult our records before I said anything more.

Later in the conversation REES said that BLUNT had been extremely nervous after the disappearance and I replied that we were well aware of that but that we had found it difficult to decide how much of his nervousness had been due to the fact that the sordid details of his private life might become public. REES replied that that was indeed a difficulty for he knew that one of the things that BLUNT had absolutely set his heart upon was to receive a Knighthood.

In dealing with the danger of BURGESS in his present position in Moscow, REES also said that he thought BURGESS could do incalculable damage by making allegations about prominent people that were compounds of fact and fiction. For example, REES asked if we were aware that at one time BURGESS was having an affair with Clarissa Churchill, now Lady Eden. I said I was well aware of this and that I agreed that it was a dangerous matter. I did not however know to what extent it was true and to what extent one could believe BURGESS' claims. REES also professed himself to be unable to shed any light upon this.

I told REES that I had no doubt that there were a great number of points that would arise out of reading his book and I should probably want to discuss these with him at some future early date. REES said that he would welcome a discussion with me and would very much appreciate being able to talk to someone about it as there was no-one else to whom he could do so.

D.I.A.  
15.3.56.

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.



**SECRET**

165A2

PF. 604583/LA

14th March 1956.

My dear Director,

You will remember when I saw you on Friday last you were kind enough to give me your advice, which we duly followed, and I am pleased to say that we have now seen Mr. Goronwy REES who has talked freely and has expressed his willingness to talk further.

There has therefore been no question of a refusal by Mr. REES to disclose information, so I am glad to say I shall not have to trouble you further on the matter we discussed, on the possible use of the powers given by Section 6 of the 1920 Official Secrets Act, as amended by the Act of 1939.

I am grateful to you for the courtesy you

Sir Theobald Mathew, K.B.E., M.C.,  
Director of Public Prosecutions,  
12 Buckingham Gate,  
S.W.1.

BAH/PB

**SECRET**JWA/PB  
20/3/56



afforded me and the kindness you extended in  
offering us your advice on such informal  
matters.

Yours sincerely,

*B. A. Hill*

B.A. Hill.



CONFIDENTIAL

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Room 055

Whitehall 9400 Ext. 393

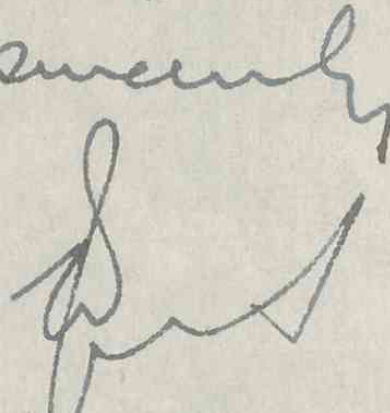
14th March, 1956

Dear

Rees

As promised, I am returning in haste the manuscript you lent to us. I have had it copied and will undoubtedly be in touch with you again.

Yours,



W.J. Skardon.

If for any unforeseen reason you wish to telephone me, the number shown above will be most likely to be suitable during office hours.

M. Goronwy Rees, Esq.,  
University College of Wales,  
Plas Penglais,  
Aberystwyth.  
Cardiganshire

CONFIDENTIAL

Jm/18/56  
183/56



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Note for PF.604,583.

On 13 March John Cimperman asked if I could see him later in the day. Thinking he might want to ask about the article in the 11 March issue of "The People", I confirmed that the Bureau had been given a copy of the statement which REES volunteered on 6 June 1951. When Cimperman came in the afternoon of 13 March I told him that the writer of the article was Goronwy REES and referred him to the earlier papers. I said that there would be further articles in the series. It did not appear that much would be said that we did not already know, although many points would no doubt be amplified, but we had thought it right to interview REES and had done so on 11 March. Cimperman did not ask any further questions and I left it at that. I told him that the identity of the author of the article was for the information of the Bureau alone.

*G.R. Mitchell*

D.  
13.3.56.

G.R. Mitchell.



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Note for PF.604,583.

On the morning of 12 March Nigel Clive rang up to ask whether I had seen the article in the previous day's issue of "The People". I said that I had. Clive went on to say that he was much surprised at the contents of this article which he assumed to have been written by Goronwy REES. It seemed inconsistent with REES' previous attitude towards BURGESS that he should now be writing this highly coloured stuff about his treachery. Clive added that, when he last saw REES in January of this year, REES had said nothing about an intention of publishing a series of newspaper articles, though he did mention that he was writing a book about Guy BURGESS. I taxed Clive with having failed to tell us in January last that REES was writing a book about BURGESS, explaining that we had many responsibilities to the Foreign Office, etc., which could not be discharged unless we were given information of this kind. Clive expressed his regrets. I asked whether, when he saw REES in January, he learned anything about the motives which might have prompted him to publish material on BURGESS. At that stage Clive suggested that we should have a talk and he invited me to lunch with him on that day.

At lunch on 12 March Clive went over the history of his acquaintance with REES. He had been a pretty close friend of his since about 1948 and his wife was a very close friend of Mrs. REES. The last time he had seen REES was in the third week of January 1956 when he stayed for a night at the Clives' house in London. He then said that he had written some 30,000 words of a book on Guy BURGESS which he hoped would prove a best-seller. He had done it because there were in his (REES') knowledge facts about BURGESS which should be on record as a matter of history. Clive remembered three items which REES had mentioned as forming interesting, if not sensational, material in his book. The first was a letter from Mr. (now Sir A.) Eden to BURGESS thanking him for looking after him so well in Washington when Eden was there on a visit in late 1950 or early 1951. The second related to BURGESS' relations with the present Lady Eden and contained speculation on the different course which history might have taken had she married BURGESS instead of Sir A. Eden. The third was an account of the farewell party which BURGESS gave in London on the eve of his departure for Washington in the summer of 1950.

Clive said that he and his wife had been struck by some signs of deterioration in REES in recent months. In particular they had noticed how heavily he was drinking last January. He knew REES to be chronically hard up. Clive and his friends (in particular A.J. (Freddie) Ayer, Derek Verschoyle and Henry York) had been shocked at seeing the article in "The People" on the previous day and had speculated on REES' motives and had come to the provisional conclusion that he must be very seriously in need of cash.

Although I did not know it at the time, the 30,000 word document which Clive referred to is clearly the same as that which Mr. Reed obtained from REES on the evening of 11 March.

G.R. Mitchell.

G.R. Mitchell.

D.  
13.3.56.

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